THURSDAY
February 8, 2024

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Opposition is creating a 'North-South' divide: PM

An entire State is speaking this language, nothing can be worse than this. It is painful that such language is emerging from a national party, says Modi, asking Congress to stop 'divisive' politics

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday alleged that the Opposition is creating a "North-South" divide and asked the Congress to stop "divisive" politics. He was apparently reacting to the protest by the Karnataka government against the alleged "step-motherly" treatment of the Centre. He made these remarks while replying to a debate in the Rajya Sabha on the motion to thank President Droupadi Murmu for her address to the joint session of Parliament.

Mr. Modi said that during his term as Gujarat Chief Minister, the UPA government tried to create many obstacles, but his government's policies favoured competitive and cooperative federalism. He said "States's development for country's development" is the mantra of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking in the Rajya Sabha in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

Sharing his "agony" over recent statements of the Opposition, Mr. Modi said it was speaking the language of breaking the country. "Stop these new narratives... an entire State is speaking this language, nothing can be worse for the country than this... And it is very painful that such language is emerging from a national party, it is very sad," he said.

On complaints that taxes are not disbursed to the States in a proper manner, Mr. Modi said 'our tax, our money' should not be the language to demand States' rights. "This nation is not just a piece of land for us. It is like the human body," he said and added that if there is pain anywhere in this country, it should be felt by everyone.

He said that during the COVID-19 pandemic, he chaired 20 meetings with the Chief Ministers of all States and credited the entire machinery for tackling the challenge head-on.

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BJP HITS BACK
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State leaders hit out at Centre as they stage protest in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

Accusing the Union government of discriminating against Karnataka and the other southern States with regard to the devolution of taxes, the entire leadership of the State, led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, staged a protest at New Delhi's Jantar Mantar on Wednesday.

Terming the protest a "movement to protect the interests of Karnataka and Kannadigas" and against "step-motherly" treatment by the Centre, Mr. Siddaramaiah dismissed the BJP allegation that the protest was aimed at creating a North-South divide.

The Congress wants the country to be united, but there should be no discrimination against the southern States, the Chief Minister said.

"We are asking for our rights," said Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar who took part in the protest, along with several MPs, Ministers and MLAs from the State.

Siddaramaiah, D.K. Shivakumar and other leaders protesting in New Delhi on Wednesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

'Gross injustice'

Mr. Siddaramaiah asserted that they were protesting the "gross injustice" perpetrated by the Union government in the devolution of taxes, grant-in-aid, non-release of drought relief and denial of permissions to take up water resources projects for the past few years. "We are raising the issue of discrimination meted out by the government of India to Karnataka and other southern States. This is why I had written a letter to all MPs of BJP and JD(S) asking them to participate in this agitation," he said.

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MINISTER'S DEFENCE
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All States are neglected by Modi regime, says Pinarayi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Denying the BJP stand that the protests by Opposition-ruled States against the Centre were politically motivated to create a "North-South" divide, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said here on Wednesday that all States were suffering owing to the Centre's "anti-federal" attitude.

He said the BJP-ruled States would naturally not join the protests, but States such as Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, West Bengal, Punjab and Delhi had voiced their concerns. Mr. Vijayan is in Delhi to participate in a protest against the Centre on Thursday. He said he had extended invitations to Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and the Chief Ministers of all States not ruled by the NDA.

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NEARBY

Karnataka bans sale, consumption of hookah

BENGALURU
The State government issued a notification banning the sale, consumption, storage, advertisement, and promotion of all types of hookah products in the State with immediate effect. » PAGE 3

Govt. likely to amend APMC Act

BENGALURU
The government is likely to introduce amendment to the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Act, subject to clearance by the Select Committee. » Page 4

30 killed in blasts on the eve of Pakistan polls

Press Trust of India
KARACHI

At least 30 people were killed and more than 40 others injured on Wednesday in twin blasts targeting election offices in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, a day before the general elections in the country.

In the first incident, a powerful blast outside the office of an independent candidate in Pishin district killed 20 people and wounded 30 others.

Less than an hour later, another blast took place outside the election office of a Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan in the Killa Abdullah area claiming the lives of 10 people and injuring 22 others, officials said.

No group or individual claimed responsibility for the twin blasts.

Abdullah Zehri, a senior police official in Balochistan Panjgur, said: "Terrorists are targeting candidates to deter people from going to the polling stations but security personnel are being increased to ensure the elections go ahead on schedule."

Elections as scheduled

Balochistan's Home Minister Jan Achakzai condemned the attacks and said polls would be held as per schedule.

Pakistanis will vote on Thursday to elect a new government to rule the cash-strapped country. The front runner is former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif who is said to have the backing of the military. With former Prime Minister Imran Khan in jail, Mr. Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz is tipped to emerge as the single largest party in the elections.

Rattled residents: People gather at the site of a blast outside the office of an independent candidate in Pishin district in Pakistan. AFP

Traffic police go 100% paperless with e-challan fine system

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Getting a physical challan for a traffic fine is a thing of the past in Karnataka as the traffic police on Wednesday launched the e-challan traffic fine system.

In doing so, it is said to have become the first State in the country to go 100% paperless.

Ensuring transparency

"Implementing the e-challan system in every station is a step towards digitising traffic management, ensuring transparency and reducing paperwork. It streamlines processes, enhances efficiency, and promotes transparency in traffic enforcement," Additional Director General of Police and Commissioner of Traffic and Road Safety, Alok Kumar said.

The initiative is a collaboration of the State Police, the SBI and the State Treasury Department.

As many as 1,766 devices have been procured and distributed among the police personnel of 722 law and order stations and 64 traffic stations across the State.

The violations are recorded in real-time to generate an e-challan.

Violators will also have the option of paying the fine through different modes, including UPI, debit card, and cash payment.

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Bihar Speaker refuses to quit until Nitish faces floor test in Assembly on Feb. 12

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Bihar Assembly Speaker Awadh Bihari Choudhary made it clear on Wednesday that he would not step down from his post until the Assembly session begins on February 12, when Chief Minister and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar is set to face the floor test.

The newly formed National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in the State had moved a no-confidence motion against Mr. Choudhary, who belongs to the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD).

"Why should I resign? I will run the House according to rules of the Constitution. Strength will be known in the House and it is not our job to see this," said Mr. Choudhary, when asked about resigning in view of the no-confidence motion against him.

Awadh Bihari Choudhary

He was speaking after addressing a press advisory committee meeting inside the Assembly.

It was on January 28 that BJP leader Nand Kishore Yadav gave a notice of no-confidence against the Speaker to the Secretary. The NDA's leaders want to remove the Speaker before the floor test.

Mr. Choudhary said he came to know of the no-confidence motion against him only on Wednesday. He added that the Assembly was governed by the Constitution and rules. "As per the rules, a no-confidence motion can be brought after 14 days [of giving notice to the Secretary] or on the 14th day. Till then, the Speaker is there," he added.

Senior JD(U) leader and Minister Shravan Kumar took a jibe at Mr. Choudhary. "This is not the first time we are going for the floor test. The NDA has the full majority and now it is the time for him [Mr. Choudhary] to decide to resign," Mr. Kumar said.

In August 2022, BJP leader Vijay Kumar Sinha, now Deputy Chief Minister in the new government, similarly refused to resign when Mr. Nitish Kumar snapped ties with the BJP and formed the government with the RJD, the Congress, and the Left parties. Later, to avoid the no-confidence vote, Mr. Sinha had, however, resigned.

Sharad Pawar faction gets a longer name, day after Ajit retained NCP, clock symbol

Shoumojit Banerjee
Sreeparna Chakrabarty
PUNE

The Election Commission has approved a new name – the 'Nationalist Congress Party-Sharadchandra Pawar' – for NCP chief Sharad Pawar's faction a day after it awarded the party's original name and clock symbol to the rival NCP faction headed by Mr. Pawar's nephew and Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar.

The poll panel's decision came after Mr. Sharad Pawar's faction was asked to submit three names for their political group by 4 p.m. on Wednesday for the purposes of the Rajya Sabha polls slated to be held on February 27.

Sharad Pawar

If the NCP patriarch's faction had failed to give any alternatives, then the EC would have treated all its MLAs as Independents.

Accordingly, the group had suggested three names in order of preference– Nationalist Congress Party-Sharadchandra Pawar, Nationalist Congress Party-Sharadrao Pawar, and NCP-Sharad Pawar – to the EC. It also sought 'banyan tree' as its election symbol.

The Commission acceded to the first name preference as a one-time option for the purpose of the elections to six Rajya Sabha seats in Maharashtra.

'Unconstitutional move'

While BJP leader and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis called the EC decision on the NCP split a victory of democracy, leaders of the Sharad Pawar faction vehemently criticised it, with MLA Rohit Pawar, Mr. Sharad Pawar's grand-nephew, dubbing the EC "a political wing of the BJP".

"There were not many expectations from the EC that unconstitutionally awarded the party symbol and name to the breakaway NCP group. However, we are not worried at all as the founder of the party, Sharad Pawar, is with us. Our trust is in his deeds throughout his long career and in the faith the people of Maharashtra repose in him. The BJP and the splinter NCP faction should be wary of a wounded tiger," warned Mr. Rohit Pawar.

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M BG-BGE

Politics is always going to trump sports, says Vijay Amritraj

India had decided to forfeit the 1974 Davis Cup final against South Africa in protest against the latter's apartheid policies

Nihit Sachdeva
CHENNAI

B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

After its foray into football and golf, Saudi Arabia's tennis ambitions have become one of the biggest talking points in the world of sport.

The country successfully hosted the Next Gen ATP Finals in Jeddah last year and will continue to do so till 2027 as per the contract.

On Tuesday, an exhibition tournament - 6 Kings Slam - was announced where Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Jannik Sinner, Carlos Alcaraz, Holger Rune, and Daniil Medvedev will play in Riyadh. It has also shown interest in hosting the WTA Finals, something which legends like Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert opposed in a recent op-ed for *The Washington Post*.

"There should be a healthy debate over whether 'progress' and 'engagement' is really possible or whether staging a Saudi crown-jewel tournament would involve players in an act of sportswashing merely for the sake of a cash influx," wrote the duo.

Saudi has been accused of using sportswashing to hide the issues such as gender discrimination and homosexuality. In such a scenario, the debate on whether tennis should make a move and take the top-tier events to the Middle East continues.

Indian tennis legend Vijay Amritraj feels Saudi's interest cannot be simply ignored.

"There has been a huge push by Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert not to allow women's tennis to go to Saudi. It's their viewpoint and there are several ways to look at it," said the 70-year-old on the sidelines of an event at the Madras Cricket Club on Monday, celebrating the 50th anniversary of India reaching the Davis Cup Final for the first time in the Open era in 1974.

"When you look at someone committing a ton of money to sports and a portion of that money can go for the development of juniors in various countries, you have to give it a second look because the kids that are coming along, if they are going to miss out on all of that support, we'll be doing a disservice."

"But let us keep in mind where the world needs to go and how far we are willing to push that to the next generation. It's a very fine line," he added.

The final that never happened

Vijay, his elder brother Anand, Jasjit Singh and Sashi Menon, along with Ramanathan Krishnan, the non-playing captain, had created history by beating giants like Australia and the Soviet Union to reach the summit clash of the 'World Cup of Tennis' in 1974.

However, their opponent for the final was South Africa, and in protest against the apartheid policies, India decided to forfeit the match.

> As an athlete, we were disappointed because what are we playing for? We're playing to win, and this was an opportunity to put India's name on the Davis Cup for the first time
> **VIJAY AMRITRAJ**

Even after 50 years, Anand and Vijay both have different takes on whether it was the right call to not play against South Africa. "I don't think it was the right decision (not to play) because what would be better than two non-white boys from a country that people never thought of to ever be in a Davis Cup final to go to South Africa and beat them in Ellis Park, which is in Johannesburg," said Anand, who came back from two-sets-to-one down to beat the Soviet Union's Teimuraz Kakulia and sealed India's place in the summit clash.

"We had a good chance of winning 4-1 or 3-2, and it was a shame we didn't get that opportunity because we would have liked to have that huge Davis Cup trophy here at the MCC."

Vijay, on the other hand, puts forward the perspective of the bigger picture.

"As an athlete, we were disappointed because what are we playing for? We're playing to win, and this was an opportunity to put India's name on the Davis Cup for the first time but as human beings, we were trying to change the system that the rest of the world took for granted," he said.

"Politics is always going to trump sports because it is ahead and we have to look at the global picture, but sport, I believe, can bring countries together."

With focus on improving fitness, gymnast Pranati Nayak hopes for better performances

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

With a specific aim on improving her fitness, Indian gymnast Pranati Nayak is hoping to garner success in four World Cup events and an Asian Championship to seal her berth in the Paris Olympics.

The 28-year-old Pranati, who represented India at the Tokyo Olympics, will take part in the FIG Apparatus World Cup (Qualifying OG) in Cairo from February 15-18, followed by two similar events in Baku from March 7-10 and in Doha from April 17-20.

"I am heading for the World Cup on Tuesday (February 13) as qualification for the Olympics is starting with it. There is a World Cup in February and one each in March and April," Pranati said.

"I am going especially for vault since two quotas are left from it. If I am able to win medals in at least two of the four World Cups,

"I have a chance to qualify (for the Olympics)," she said.

"At the Asian Championships in May, there is one quota from an Asian country on the all-round basis. I will try (to qualify) from both the ways," Pranati added.

Pranati said she has spent last two months training under an overseas coach who has brought about a significant change in her methods.

"I have been training at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar under a foreign coach Amani (from Egypt) for the last two months. I am confident of doing well because earlier the fitness levels were also not high," she said.

"I would attend just a camp one month before any competition which is not enough. I am hoping to do well, who does not want to compete in the Olympics?"

"The coach felt I was lacking in fitness, so he made me work on it for one month at a stretch, even though the performances were there. For us it all depends on exhibition, improvement in fitness would reflect in performances," she added.

Keep pushing

Pranati said her focus has been on her favourite discipline vault but she has to keep pushing to better her all-round score.

"I have to push because all-round score can be achieved only with the four apparatus. In World Cup or in Games, the focus is mainly on vault but overall, both vault and all-round are important," she said.

Enjoyment, pressure

"There is both, enjoyment and pressure. Sometimes I go for events alone and hope that I would get at least one medal. I focus on giving my best. It is not that one can clinch the gold easily; your results depend on your performances.

"But it is also very difficult to end the competition with the Chinese and Japanese gymnasts," she said.

The Jordan players have clicked big-time in Doha. GETTY IMAGES

From Asian Cup final to Premier League? Jordan's coach hopes so

Agence France-Presse
DOHA

Jordan coach Hussein Ammouta hopes the team's surprise run to the Asian Cup final will spark broader development in the country's football and propel the Jordanian players into the Premier League.

Second-half goals from the impressive attacking duo of Yazan al-Naimat and Mousa al-Tamari sent Jordan into the summit clash for the first time with a 2-0 win over South Korea.

South Korea's coach Jurgen Klinsmann and skipper Son Heung-min admitted that Jordan, the lowest-ranked team left in the tournament, fully deserved its semifinal victory.

"The players delivered a heroic performance," said Moroccan Ammouta after taking Jordan into the final for the first time at its fifth Asian Cup.

No matter what happens on Saturday, the widely admired Ammouta says the landmark achievement must be the spark for something long-lasting in Jordanian football.

Invest in infrastructure

"We need to invest in infrastructure, in the training and formation of our players to reach higher levels," he said. "We need to pay attention to age categories."

Ammouta says that change is already afoot, citing the example of the impressive Tamari who, together with Naimat, terrorised South Korea's shell-shocked defence.

Tamari, who set Naimat up for the opening goal in the 53rd minute before slicing through the Korean defence for a second 13 minutes later, left Jordan's domestic league in 2018.

First came a move to Cypriot giant APOEL, before leaving for Belgian football two years later with Oud-Heverlee Leuven.

Last summer, after 10 goals and nine assists for the top-flight Belgian side, Tamari sealed a free transfer to Montpellier in France.

Tamari is the only member of Jordan's Asian Cup squad playing in Europe and Ammouta says for the national side to build on its success in Qatar more need to follow in his footsteps.

"What you saw today was the fruit of several years of work," Ammouta said after the South Korea triumph.

"We have Mousa al-Tamari in the French league and, hopefully, we will have four or five Jordanian players in the French league or the English Premier League.

Great value

"When you look at Japan or Korea, you see players who are playing abroad have great value to their national teams.

"This is what we should start planning for – how will we produce players who will play in the world's biggest leagues.

"This a building block that's part of a bigger plan."

First, Jordan must upset the odds once again in the final in Doha. Ranked 87th in the world by FIFA, it will be the underdog in the summit clash.

Tamari afterwards attempted to deflect from his own Player-of-the-Match performance against South Korea.

"This victory started with the fans, not us," said Tamari, who was seated at the post-match press conference with Ammouta.

"This man told us to have fun – yes, it was a semifinal. "He instilled in us a winning culture. We want to dedicate this victory to the people of Morocco and the coach."

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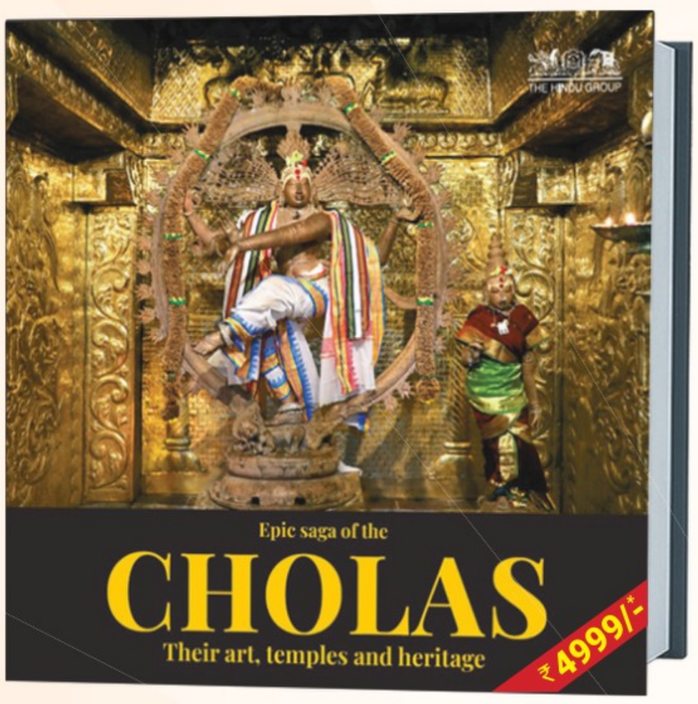

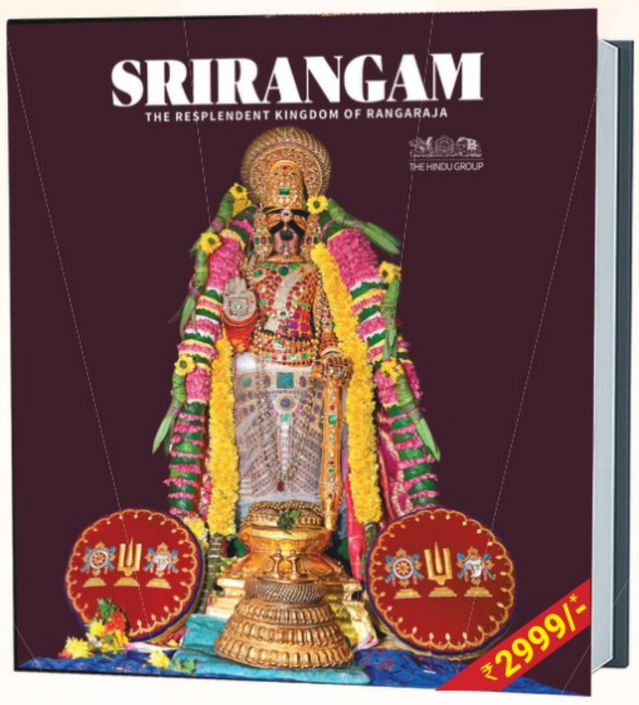

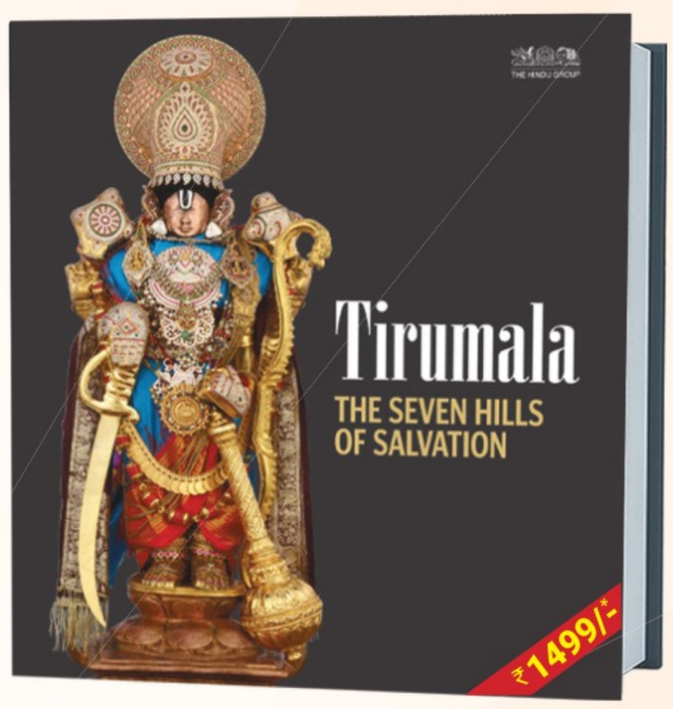

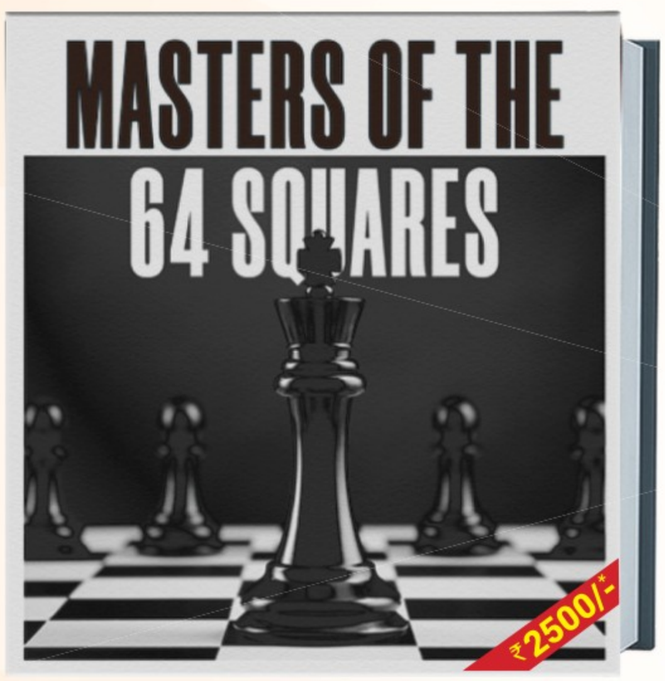

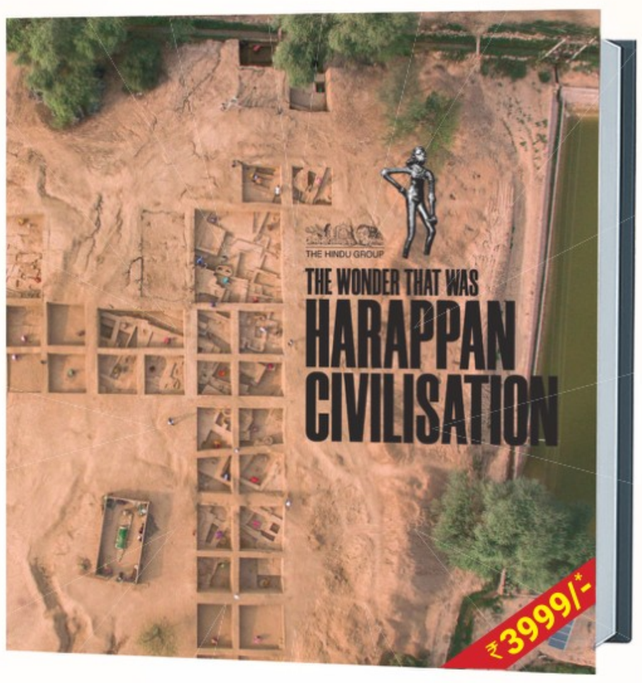

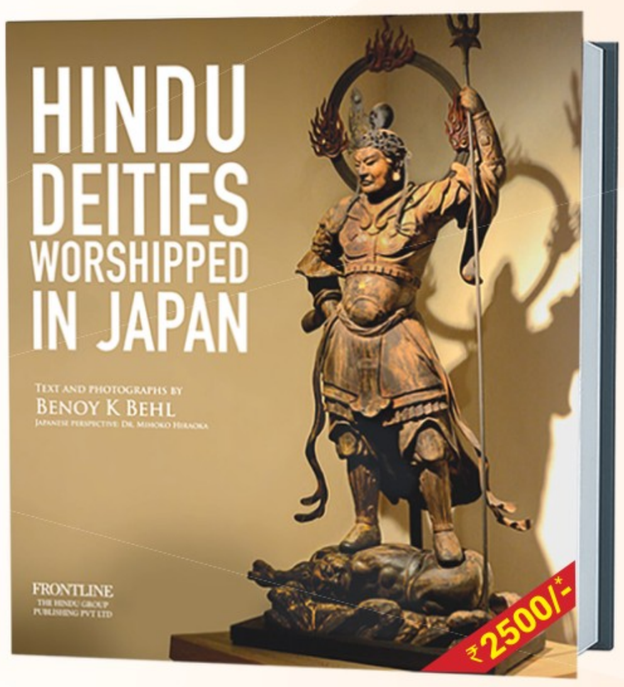

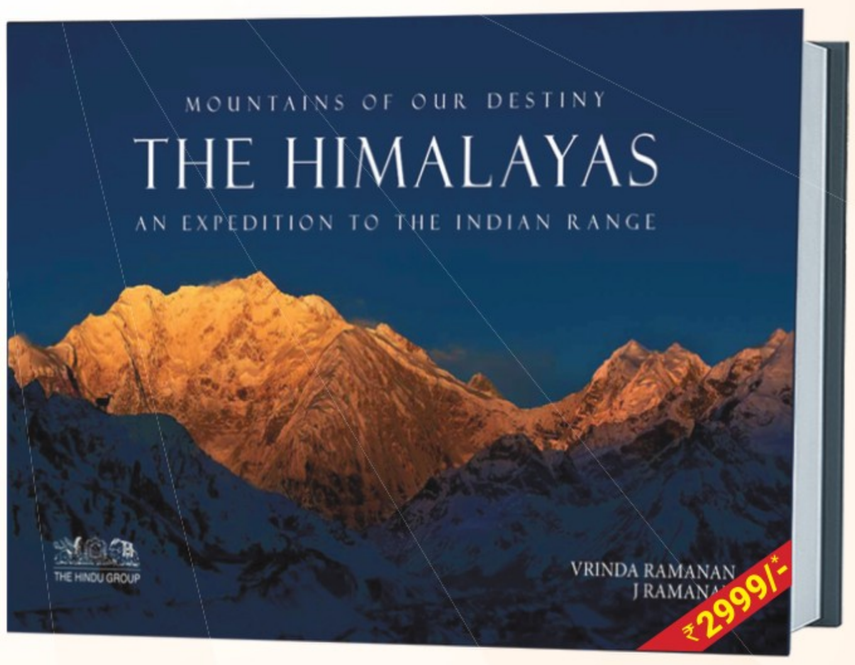

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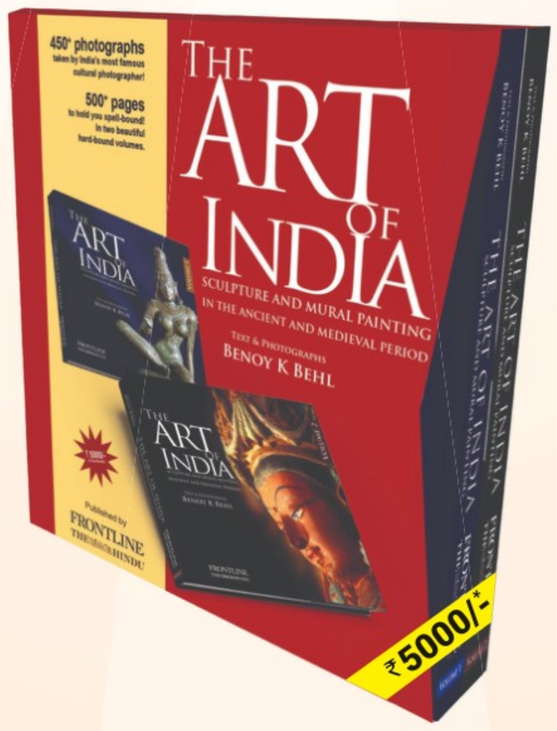

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BBMP to display names of top 50 property tax defaulters

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Through Bescom bills, the BBMP has found that many are paying tax prescribed for residential properties although the land is being used for commercial purposes. FILE PHOTO

In yet another such attempt, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is planning to display names of the top 50 property tax defaulters on the notice boards across the zonal offices and the civic body's official website.

This decision was taken to make these names public to force them to pay the dues. According to sources in the BBMP, there are defaulters who have to pay more than ₹150 crore.

This step by the BBMP is part of their plan to increase tax revenue and is being done on the insistence of Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar. Mr. Shivakumar has given the target of ₹4,500 crore tax collection. The BBMP has also started a survey of its properties in the city to check for encroachment. On the other hand, through Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited bills, the BBMP has found many properties paying tax prescribed for residential properties although the land is being used for commercial purposes. A senior BBMP official from the Revenue Department told *The Hindu*, "In a week, we will display names of the top 50 defaulters. This will make the general public know how big entities are not paying property tax."

The official further said many tax defaulters successfully secured stay in the courts and now the BBMP has revamped the legal team to fight the battle strongly. "The team along with the Revenue Department will work relentlessly to vacate the stays. Also, those who have got advertisement rights are not paying the money. The advertisement space was given to them on the agreement that they pay a portion of the profit to the BBMP. There are about 44 people who have got advertisement rights," the official said.

Heavy vehicles banned on service road of ORR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To decongest traffic movement on the Marathahalli Outer Ring Road, the HAL traffic police banned the movement of heavy goods vehicles, BMTC, and private buses on the service road.

According to an official release, heavy vehicles can take a U-turn at the ISRO junction in Karthiknagar to proceed towards ITPL, Kadugodi, Varthur Kodi and move further.

Vehicles coming towards the city can take a left turn at ISRO junction to move on Doddanekkundi village to reach HAL airport road. However, school vehicles are allowed to ply on the service road.

Ex-defence person arrested for opening fire during drunken brawl

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Gangammanagudi police arrested a 65-year-old former defence person for allegedly opening fire at a youth during a drunken brawl at the house of his acquaintance on Tuesday.

The accused has been identified as Parashuram, a resident of Abbigere Layout. According to the police, the accused got drunk and armed with his licenced weapon, he visited the house late in the evening and confronted a youth identified as Suraj.

A heated argument ensued after Suraj asked him to go out. Enraged, Parashuram pulled out his licenced weapon and fired at Suraj. It was a narrow escape for Suraj and residents and family members were shocked hearing the gunshot.

Based on the complaint, the police rushed to the spot and arrested him under attempt to murder and seized the weapon. According to the police, the accused used to go to his acquaintance's house and harass the family members frequently.

Further investigations are under way.

Duped by patient, cosmetic surgeon loses ₹6 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Vijayanagar police registered an extortion, cheating and criminal intimidation case against a 32-year-old woman for allegedly luring a city-based cosmetic surgeon with an offer to get him a high-end car at a cheaper rate and pocketed a total of ₹6.02 crore.

The accused had even threatened to foist a rape case against him and defame him in the media and extorted an additional ₹2 lakh when the doctor started demanding her to return the money.

The victim, in his complaint, said that the accused had come to his hospital for cosmetic surgery in June 2022. Claiming to be a successful realtor and dealer of expensive second-hand cars, the accused offered to get him a luxury car and took ₹6 crore on different dates.

When the accused refused to get the car, he started calling her to return the money, following which the accused called him to a club to talk. The accused threatened him with dire consequences and even of filing a rape case. She demanded ₹5 lakh for not filing the case and took ₹2 lakh after negotiation.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MULLA Shaja Bee, W/o S Abdul Rajak, R/a No.10, 2nd Cross, VST Road, Near Don Bosco Church, Lingarajapura, Bangalore-560084 have changed my name to Sushmitha Raj vide affidavit dt: 30.01.2024 sworn before Notary Udaykumar.K, B'luru

I, S Abdul Rajak, S/o S Khasim Sab, R/a No.10, 2nd Cross, VST Road, Near Don Bosco Church, Lingarajapura, Bangalore-560084 have changed my name to Rajkumar vide affidavit dt: 30.01.2024 sworn before Notary Udaykumar.K, B'luru

PUBLIC NOTICE

Form No. URC-2
Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part 1 of Chapter XXI [Pursuant to section 374(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the Companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014]

1. Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application has been made to the Registrar at Bangalore, Karnataka that **"Nuchange Informatics LLP"** a Limited Liability Partnership Firm may be registered under Part 1 of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act, 2013 as a company limited by shares.
2.The principal objects of the Company are as follows:
a.To carry on in India or elsewhere the business to design, develop, alter, manufacture, process, implement, market, buy, sell, import, export, trade or otherwise deal in software solutions, programs, technical know-how and other related accessories and to conduct feasibility studies, execute projects or provide management consultancy services relating to software design and to provide training, technical support, assistance, services on software solutions to the customers in India or abroad.
3.A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office **"No. 2C-112, 2nd Floor, 2nd Cross, East of NGEF Layout, Kasturinagar, Bangalore – 560 043"**.
4.Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the **"CRC (IICA) 6,7,8, Sector 5, IMT Manesar"**, within twenty-one (21) days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the company at its registered office.
Dated this on Friday of Second February Two thousand and Twenty-Four (02/02/2024)
Name(s) of Applicant
1.Arun Paul
2.Sandeep Elambassery

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VIDYARANYA S/o Gurubassayya Hiremath H.No.658, Hebbal Hukkeri Belgaum Karnataka-591221, declare that my name mentioned wrong in my son's Passport No. W9648467 as Vidyaranya and the correct name is Vidyaranya Gurubassayya Hiremath for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 06-02-2024 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bangalore.

THANKSGIVING

ST JUDE, Thanks for listening to my prayers. Please Bless us always.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE JUNIOR CIVIL JUDGE: PENUKONDA
O.S.79/2022
Between:
Mahboob Jan and 16 others
..... Plaintiffs.
AND
Kalmari Abdul Rasheed and others
..... Defendants.
NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT NO.3
To,
Kalamari Imran Sab S/o Vajeer Sab, # 01, B.R. Ambedkar Nagar, Near Aksamazeed, Bannaragatta Road, Bangalore South, Karnataka, Bangalore-560083.
The plaintiffs have filed the suit for partition and separate possession against you and some other defendants. We have filed batta several times. But the notices are not served upon you. Hence you are hereby called upon to appear before this Hon'ble court on **16.02.2024 at 10.30 AM** by personally or through advocate after seeing this publication. If you failed to appear before this Hon'ble court the matter will be decided in you absence.
(By order of the court Pri. Junior Civil Judge Court, Penukonda.)
Sri C. R. Nagarjuna, Sri G. Prakash Kumar, Advocates, Penukonda.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client **Mrs.Shubha Murthy,** Aged about 74 years, W/o Mr.N.Vijaya Shekara Murthy, Residing at No.651, 28th Main Road, BTM Layout, 2nd Stage, Bengaluru 560 076, is absolute owner of the Northern-Eastern Portion of Property bearing No.9, Situated at "NIMHANS HBCS" BTM Layout, Bangalore South Taluk, presently Gurappana Palya, PID No.64-151-9, Now comes within the jurisdiction of BBMP, Ward No.64, Measuring to an extent of East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 40 feet, in all totally measuring 1200 Square feet, along with Sixteen (16) Squares of RCC Roofed House, comprising of Ground, First and Second Floors, constructed thereon, with granite flooring, electricity, water and sanitary connections thereon and the same is acquired by way of Gift Deed dated 30.07.2020, Doc.No.BTM-1-1184/2020-21, Book-I, Stored in CD No.BTMD515, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, B.T.M Layout, Bangalore.
My client has lost/misplaced **2nd Page of Sale Deed dated 11.05.1987, 431/1987-88, Book-I, Volume 1082, at Pages 81 to 84, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar, Bangalore (2nd Page of the Sale Deed of the larger portion of the Schedule Property) at Xerox Centre while getting it Xeroxed.** My client has not pledged, mortgaged, lien or have executed any GPA with any third parties. Any transaction held in respect of the said property without the knowledge of my client shall be void and my client shall not hold any responsibility over transaction held in respect the above said property.
If any of the general public has found the said documents shall handed over the same within **15 days** from the date of publication to the below mentioned address.
Lohith S.R., Advocate
No. 49, 1st Floor, Opp to 12th Cross, Cubbonpet Main Road, Bangalore-560002.
Contact : +91 82961 26706

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients **1. MR. RAMANJANEYA REDDY MINDIGINTI,** Aged about 41 Years, S/o.Mr.Chowdareddy Mindiginti, **2.Mrs.ARUNA.P.R,** Aged about 32 Years ,W/o Mr.Ramanjaneya Reddy Mindiginti, Both are Residing at: No.7-25/2, Rekalakuntapalli, P T M. T Sadum, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh-517391. have enter in to a sale agreement with its owner **Mrs. VANITHA,** Aged about 41 years, W/o.Mr.Nitin Kumar Bhandari, Residing at No.1/1, Parasmani Regency, C Block, No.201, 7th main Road, 5th cross Road, 2nd Block, Jayanagara East, Madhavan Park, Bangalore-560011.in respect of the schedule property which is more fully described in the schedule given below. If any persons claiming or objections or rights with regard to the Schedule Property they are required to send the same with documentary evidence within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of this Public Notice hereof my clients shall be at liberty to proceed with the sale deed if there is no any claims or objection in the regard to the Schedule Property within the stipulated time.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of **Site No.14,** Khatha No.250, old Khatha No.131, Property No.13/1, Situated at **Seegehalli Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District** Now comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Ward No.53, Measuring East to West 50 Feet and North to South 40 feet in total Measuring **2000 Square feet,** together with all appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded by:-
East by : Private Property,
West by : 30 feet Wide Road,
North by : Site No.13,
South by : Site No.15,
T.RAMESH KUMAR & MANJULA RAMESH Advocates
No.1, Alisa Arcade, Near Vijaya Bank, Old Madras Road, K.R.Puram, Bengaluru-560036. Ph.No.9845601026
Bengaluru Date : 07-02-2024

EAST COAST RAILWAY

e-TENDER NOTICE No.: SNTPBBS-032024-JKPR-GTA
NAME OF WORK : PROVISION OF AUTOMATIC BLOCK SIGNALING SYSTEM WITH DUAL MSDAC AND ALTERATION IN EXISTING EI/PI/RRI STATIONS IN THE SECTION OF JAKHAPURA-NERGUNDI, KHURDA ROAD- BHUSUNDPUR & BHUSUNDPUR- GOLANTHRA OVER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.
Approximate Advertised Value (₹): 180,07,61,541.02, EMD (₹): 91,53,800/-, Completion Period: 24 Months.
Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1530 Hrs. of 29.02.2024.
Pree-Bid Conference Date & Time: 13.02.2024 at 1530 Hrs.
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: **http://www.ireps.gov.in**.
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender.
PR-120/CG/23-24 Dy. CSTE/Project, Bhubaneswar

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients **1. Mr.MEDA AJAY KRISHNA.** Aged about 32 Years, S/o. Mr.Meda Venkata Ramaiah,Residing at: No.5-5, Main Road, Rudravaram, Kurnool, Rudravarma, Andhra Pradesh-518594, have enter in to a sale agreement with its owner **Mrs.T.CHANDRIKA Alias CHANDRIKA ANANTHA,** Aged About 39 Years, W/o. Mr.Anantha B.N.Residing at: #33.Varthur Road Behind Plantation Nursery, Balagere, Bellandur Bangalore-560103. in respect of the schedule property which is more fully described in the schedule given below. If any persons claiming or objections or rights with regard to the Schedule Property they are required to send the same with documentary evidence within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of this Public Notice hereof my clients shall be at liberty to proceed with the sale deed if there is no any claims or objection in the regard to the Schedule Property within the stipulated time.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of **House List Khatha No.250/231** Old Khatha No.190/231 Earlier VP Khatha No.600/636, BBMP Khatha No.951-600-636,Situated at **Varthur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban, District,** Ward No.149, Measuring East to West 41 Feet and North to South 62 Feet in total Measuring 2542 Square Feet, Along with 1500 Square Feet of Ground Floor, 1500 Square Feet of First Floor and 1500 Square Feet of Second Floor and 1500 Square Feet of Third Floor of RCC roofed Building, constructed with Hallow Blocks and cement, Mosaic/Vitrified flooring, Honne wood doors and windows, electricity and water connection with all civil amenities, together with all appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded by:-
East by : Lakshmidevamma's House,
West by : R.Govindraj S/o G.Ramaiah's House,
North by : Nisar Ahmed's House,
South by : Road,
T.RAMESH KUMAR & MANJULA RAMESH Advocates
No.1, Alisa Arcade, Near Vijaya Bank, Old Madras Road, K.R.Puram, Bengaluru-560036. Ph.No.9845601026
Bengaluru Date : 07-02-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owners: (1) **SRI.N.H.VIJAYA RAGHAVAN** S/o late Sri.O.N.Herambadevan, (2) **SRI.H.K.RAMA PRASAD** S/o late Sri.H.R.K.Rao & his wife **SMT.KAVITHA PRASAD,** (3) **SRI.N.H.JANARDHAN** S/o late Sri.O.N.Herambadevan, (4) **SRI.M.M.VINAY** S/o Sri.M.S.Muralidhar, (5) **SRI.V.M.MANJUNATH** S/o late V.K.Muniyappa Shetty & his wife **SMT.VINDHYA M.JANAKI.**
Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the entire residential apartment building known as "KARTHIK APARTMENTS" comprised of six apartments, bearing Municipal Nos.18 (PID No.49-10-18), 18/1 (PID No.49-10-18/1), 18/2 (PID No. 49-10-18/2), 18/3 (PID No.49-10-18/3) and 18/4 (PID No.49-10-18/4), built in the land/property bearing Municipal No.280/18, admeasuring 3615 Sq.ft., situated at 4th Main Road, Kempegowdanagar, Bangalore and bounded on:
East by : 4th Main Road
West by : Private Property
North by : Property of S.K.Sharma
South by : 5th Cross Road
Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**
Advocate
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my client **Hussain Bhasba** S/o Moula Sab, aged about 44 years R/at No. 31, 1st Floor, Nrupathunga Road, Near Kannada Church, T. Dasarahalli, Bangalore-560 057, had negotiated to purchase the Schedule property from **SRI. G. SANTHOSH** S/o T.N. Gangappa and **SMT. P. AMBIKA** W/o Sri. G. Santosh, R/at No.5, Ambika P Building, 1st Cross, Papaiah Road, Nethajinagar, Chokkasandra, Bangalore-560 057. Any person/s claiming any manner of right, title, and interest over the schedule property called upon to lodge such claim/s or objection with the under signed in writing with supporting documents with in 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication. If no such objection or claims are received within the set period failing which my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property same as "Free from claims of whatsoever manner" and no claims shall be entrained later.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No. 02, Assessment No. 23/2A2 and 2B2, of Chokkasandra Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently comes under BBMP Ward No. 39, BBMP Khatha No. 1967, property bearing Site No. 2, measuring East to West: 56 ft., North to South : 25 ft, totally measuring 1400 Sq.ft., with constructing 36 square RCC roofed House and bounded on :
East by : Property belongs to Narayanappa ; **West by :** Road ; **North by :** Earlier Property belongs to P. Ambika ; presently Udayakumar K Yadav, **South by :** Temple and property belongs to Arjunappa;
V.L. RAGHU, Advocate
No. 792/1, 1st Floor, C.M. Nivas, T. Dasarahalli Tumkur Road, Bangalore-560 057.
Mobile No. 9980311276
Place: Bangalore Date : 07.02.2024

Hg : 20.03.2024
BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II
4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru-560 001
O.A. No.590/2022
BETWEEN
STATE BANK OF MYSORE
Avenue Road Branch, Bengaluru &
Now Represented by
STATE BANK OF INDIA
Asset Recovery Management Branch (ARMB), 2nd Floor, A Block, BKG Complex, Mysore Bank Circle, Avenue Road, BANGALORE - 560009,
Now at
#11/90, 3rd Floor, Near Old Shivaji Theatre, JC Road, Bengaluru -560002
Represented by its Chief Manager
....*Applicant*
AND
SMT. SWATHI R KUMAR
.... *Defendants*
SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(Viii) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEEDURE) RULES 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION
DEFENDANT
SMT. SWATHI R KUMAR
W/o Ramesh Kumar.Y
Aged about 35 years
Residing at No.134, Spandana, Ground Floor, 3rd 'A' cross, Kasturinagar, Bengaluru-560043
And also at No.71/1, Jogupalya Main Road, Jogupalya, Ulsoor, shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 008
PAN : AVOPK0394G, DOB: 10.11.1986
Whereas, the Applicant Has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993, against the Defendants for recovery of sum of **Rs.41,29,533.24** (Rupees Forty one Lakhs twenty nine thousand five hundred and thirty three and paisa twenty four only) together with cost and other reliefs.
The above mentioned Defendant is therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of his/their defense to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on 20.03.2024 at 10.30 am (forenoon) as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.
BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL
Sd/-
REGISTRAR
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II
BANGALORE 560 001

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. SANDT_WAT_CAMC_VDRPU_8CHL
NAME OF WORK : COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR 8 CHANNEL VOICE DATA RECORDING AND PROCESSING UNIT (VDRPU) INSTALLED IN TELECOM TEST ROOM FOR A PERIOD OF 03 (THREE) YEARS AT WALTAIR DIVISION.
Advertised Value (₹) : 2,33,280.00, EMD (₹) : 4,700.00, Tender Document Cost (₹) : 2,360/-, Period of Completion : 36 Months.
Bidding Start Date : 08.02.2024
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 22.02.2024
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Complete information including e-Tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website http://www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer / Waltair
PR-1058/O/23-24

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

CHENNAI DIVISION-ENHM WING (MECHANICAL BRANCH)
GEM BID NO. GEM/2024/B/4510324 DATED 29.01.2024
Divisional Railway Manager/EnHM Wing/Mechanical Branch/Chennai Division, Chennai 600003, for and on behalf of President of India invites ONLINE Tenders for the following work as per tender notice given in the e-tender GEM portal. The tenderer(s)/contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for outsourcing of Collection, Transportation, and disposal of garbage from MBM Station & colony, PER Station, ANNR Colony, RPM Station & Colony, WST Station & Colony and SO Colony for a period of two years (730 days) in Chennai Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender through GEM portal and only online tenders will be accepted. The cost of tender form & EMD can also be paid online in GeM portal as per bid document.
Description: Collection, Transportation, and disposal of garbage from MBM Station & colony, PER Station, ANNR Colony, RPM Station & Colony, WST Station & Colony and SO Colony for a period of two years (730 days) in Chennai Division
Location: MBM Station & colony, PER Station, ANNR Colony, RPM Station & Colony, WST Station & Colony and SO Colony, Chennai

Value (₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Period of completion
47,20,030.35/-	94,410/-	730 days

Tender closing date and time: **19/02/2024 at 19.00 hrs.**
Tender opening date and time: **19/02/2024 at 19.30 hrs.**
Details of value of tender, tender form cost, EMD are given in GEM e-portal. For bid submission please refer to GeM web portal.
Divisional Environment & Housekeeping Manager, For Divisional Railway Manager/ Mechanical- EnHM Chennai Division, Southern Railway - 600003
Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, NASHIK
E-Tender Notice No. 83 for 2023-24 (Online)
Online E-Tenders in "B-1" Form for the following works invited by Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Nashik Phone No. (0253/2583761-64, 2575324) for and on behalf of Governor of Maharashtra State From Capable of P.W.Deptt. Registered / Unregistered Contractor or International Contractor whose Sub company / branch in India and also complete terms and conditions mentioned in tender document.
Tender document download on our website https://mahatenders.gov.in Right of rejection of E-tender / cancellation of E-tender reserved by The Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Nashik. *Conditional Tender will not be accepted.
Note :- Above mentioned E-Tender Notice including Total 15 (Fifteen) (Costing upto Rs.1000.00 Lacks) Works And details of mentioned E-Tender Notice available on below website.
1) **www.mahapwd.gov.in**
2) **https://mahatenders.gov.in**

Tender Document Sale Start and End Date Time	08.02.2024 From	11:05	to	22.02.2024 Upto	17:00

- Blank E-Tender form Fees (Non refundable) and EMD amount will be accepted Online only.
- Post Qualification criteria condition included in tender document
- All eligible / intrested Contractors are required to be enrolled on portal **https://mahatenders.gov.in** before down loading tender documents and participate in e-tendering
- The information of E-Payment Gateway available on E-Tendering website **https://mahatenders.gov.in**

Please Note this to all Registered/Unregistered Contractors.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division, Nashik
DGIPR/2023-2024/7885

Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited
(CIN : U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Regd. Office : Engineering Building, H.E.C., Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004,
Telephone :-0651-2400799 & Fax : 0651-2400799
https://www.jbvnl.co.in Email- cecr2018@gmail.com
2nd Extension Notice
NIT No. - 348/PR/JBVNL/2023-24
E-tender for selection of full turnkey contractor for development of distribution infra structure in **Electric supply Circle , Dhanbad** for an estimated cost Rs 282.32 Crores under Loss Reduction of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) sanction by Ministry of Power, GoI and approved by GoJ is hereby extended as per below given revised calendar of events

SN	Details of Work	
I	Development of distribution infrastructure like replacement of LT Conductor to AB Cable Erection of LT & 11kv line, installation of New DTR ,etc	
2	Estimated Cost- Rs 282.32 Crores(all inclusive)	
3	**Revised Calendar of Events :**	
I	**Last Date / Time for receipt of bids(online)**	13.02.2024 till 16:00Hrs
II	**Last Date / Time for receipt offline documents (in hard copy in the office of GM(Coml.)**	13.02.2024 till :13:00Hrs
III	**Date and Time for Opening of Technical bid**	14.02.2024 at 16:30 Hrs

The tender documents with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in and should upload all relevant documents as mentioned in the tender document only through online e-tender portal/website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
PR No. 316180
Save Energy, Save Nation for Better Tomorrow
Sd/-
General Manager (Coml.)
PR 318135 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd (23-24)_D

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
(CIN – U40108JH2013-SGC001702)
Regd. Office:- Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi–834004.
fax # 0651-2400483 e-mail : cesp.jseb@rediffmail.com
1st Time Extension Notice
Last date of uploading of bid documents, last date of physical submission of tender fee and bid opening date of following tender notice no. is hereby extended as below :-

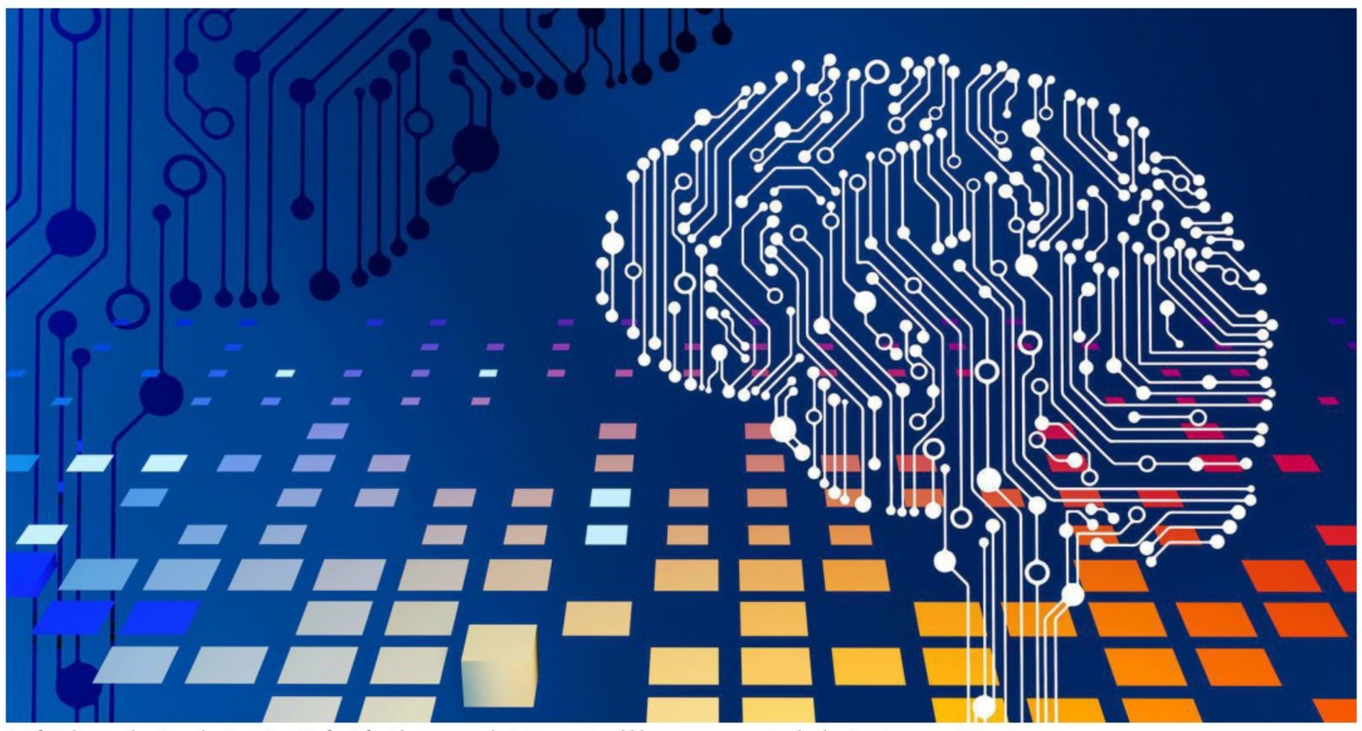
Sl. No.	NiTs No.	Extended online bid uploading/ submission end date	Last date of online submission of tender fee and EMD	Technical bid opening date and time
1	**344/PR/JBVNL/2023-24** 33/11 KV, 5 MVA Cu. Wd. CRGO Core Power Transformer	19.02.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs	19.02.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs.	20.02.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs.
2	**345/PR/JBVNL/2023-24** 33/11 KV, 10 MVA Cu. Wd. CRGO Core Power Transformer	19.02.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs	19.02.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs.	20.02.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs.
3	**346/PR/JBVNL/2023-24** 11/0.4 KV, BIS level -I, 500 KVA Cu. Wd. CRGO CORE, Distribution Transformer	19.02.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs	19.02.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs.	20.02.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs.
4	**347/PR/JBVNL/2023-24** Trolley mounted distribution sub-station with 250 KVA DTR along with all accessories & equipment.	19.02.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs	19.02.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs.	20.02.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs.

Further details against the above NIT can be seen on website http:jharkhandtenders.gov.in and may be contacted on Mobile No. 09431135523 / 9430348596/ NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178. Submission of tender fee/EMD will not be accepted by courier/Regd. Post.
PR No. 315779
स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकयतों को टॉल फ्री नं० 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज करायें।
Sd/-
DGM (Purchases)
PR 318143 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd (23-24)_D

In breakthrough, neural network 'explains' how it found new antibiotic

A study has reported making deep-learning approaches to drug discovery 'explainable', a significant step; scientists have reported discovering a new class of antibiotics. The last known structural class of antibiotics was reported in 2000. Their work has thus ended a decades-long wait

Sayantan Datta



Artificial neural networks is a circuit of artificial neurons that is organised like neurons are in the brain. Representative image. STEVE JOHNSON/UNSPLASH

What connects ChatGPT and antibiotics?

History has a curious answer: 1944. In that year, scientists proposed the first artificial neural network, a technology that later led to the birth of deep-learning and artificially intelligent systems like ChatGPT. The same year, biologists discovered streptomycin, the world's first aminoglycoside antibiotic. It would soon revolutionise the treatment of life-threatening diseases like tuberculosis.

Today, we have a deeper connection between deep-learning and antibiotics. In a December 2023 paper in *Nature*, scientists have reported discovering a new class of antibiotics using a form of deep-learning that has been gaining more attention.

According to their paper, the last known structural class of antibiotics was reported in 2000. Their work has thus ended a decades-long wait for a new class.

The researchers were from the Broad Institute, Integrated Biosciences Inc., the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering, and the Leibniz Institute of Polymer Research.

'Enhancing drug development'

Unlike previous approaches that used deep-learning to discover new drugs, the researchers said they were able to identify the chemical motifs - technically called substructures - their model used to check whether a given compound could be an antibiotic. This, they wrote, made their model "explainable".

The team also demonstrated the efficacy of two compounds from this novel class of antibiotics in mice infected with methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). MRSA infections were responsible for more than 100,000 human deaths in 2019.

Amitesh Anand, a biologist who studies bacterial metabolism at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, lauded the study for advancing "our understanding in specific antibiotic research" and providing "a broader model for enhancing drug development strategies".

AI researcher Vineeth Balasubramanian, a computer science and engineering professor at IIT Hyderabad, called the study "impressive". "Being able to isolate substructures that have a certain tested property may be critical in scientific understanding as well as expediting drug discovery efforts," he said.

Deep-learning, explain yourself

All artificial neural networks are made of artificial 'neurons'. These are algorithms that receive an input, perform a computation, and relay the output. Deep-learning neural networks have three or more layers of such 'neurons'.

Using these neural networks to make predictions has two steps: training and testing. In training, the network is provided with a large amount of annotated inputs. For example, if the network is being trained to identify pictures of cats, it is provided with many such pictures labelled "cat".

During testing, the network is shown images outside the input dataset, e.g. one of a cat the network hasn't encountered during training and another of a dog. If the network is able to accurately classify the former as 'cat' and the latter as 'not cat', the network is said to have 'learnt'.

With most deep-learning networks, researchers have not been able to identify which aspects of the novel input the network used to make its evaluation. This renders most deep learning models a black box.

On the other hand, the network reported in the new study was explainable, which is the opposite. According to Prof. Balasubramanian, this would be like "a deep learning model predicting an image as that of a cat and then explaining which pixels in the image helped the model make this prediction".

This is considered significant in antibiotic discovery. If deep-learning can identify potential antibiotics and also *explain* what substructures may contribute to its antibiotic activity, scientists can synthesise and test compounds with these substructures faster.

Predictions and rationales

Inspired to open up the 'black box', Felix Wong, a researcher at the Broad Institute, co-founder of Integrated Biosciences, and lead author of the paper, started by experimentally screening more than 39,000 compounds for their ability to inhibit the growth of *S. aureus*. These contained "most known antibiotics, natural products, and structurally diverse molecules," the authors wrote. They finally shortlisted 512 compounds.

Then the team trained a graph neural network (GNN) on this dataset. A GNN represents atoms as "nodes" and the bonds between them as "edges" on a mathematical graph.

While searching for antibiotics, researchers are careful to choose compounds that don't harm human cells. Testing the 512 active compounds on lab-grown human cells, the researchers found 306 compounds to fit this criterion. The team also trained other GNNs to identify cytotoxic compounds.

In the testing phase, the GNNs were exposed to a database of more than 1.2 crore compounds, and the networks identified 3,646 compounds that could be antibiotic.

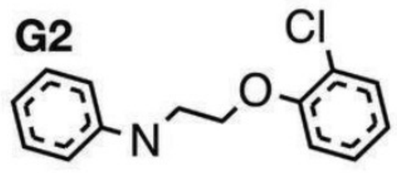
> With most deep-learning networks, researchers have not been able to identify which aspects of the novel input the network used to make its evaluation. This renders most deep learning models a black box

The researchers hypothesised that the GNNs made their predictions based on a molecule's substructures. (For example, several antibiotics have substructures called beta-lactam rings.) The team dubbed those substructures directly responsible for a compound's antibiotic property 'rationales'.

Using a different algorithm, the team determined the rationales of the 3,646 compounds - including previously known ones like beta-lactam rings, cephalosporin, and quinolone bicyclic rings.

Against MRSA and VRE

While determining the rationales for 380 compounds from the set of 3,646, the team found some that had not been previously reported and which the GNNs predicted could confer antibiotic properties to molecules. One such rationale was *N*-[2-(2-chlorophenoxy)ethyl]aniline (shown above). On further tests, two compounds containing this rationale were found to inhibit the growth of MRSA cultures by changing the concentration of hydrogen ions across the bacterial cell membrane.



N-[2-(2-chlorophenoxy)ethyl]aniline . FELIX WONG

Notably, the compounds were also effective against vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE), a bacteria responsible for more than 5,400 deaths in the U.S. in 2017.

Finally, the team tested one compound in mouse models of MRSA-related skin and thigh infections and found that it effectively reduced the extent of infection.

The results mean the team can conduct more tests to ascertain their potential as antibiotics against MRSA. According to Prof. Balasubramanian, "there are many more studies and steps before a drug actually gets translated to use".

A lacuna

The study's key contribution lies in making deep-learning approaches to drug discovery explainable. This, Prof. Balasubramanian said, is significant "especially if the method is reproducible across drug categories".

Dr. Wong said the team is now applying substructure rationales to design new antibiotics. It is also applying the approach to other drugs, including those that selectively kill ageing cells and thus prevent the onset of several age-related disorders.

Prof. Balasubramanian also flagged one lacuna in the new study: that the researchers had assessed the explainability of their system *after* they had predicted the antibiotic property of certain compounds.

As a result, any error in the explainability analysis would lead to "one never [knowing] whether the original deep-learning method focused on the wrong substructures or if the follow-up analysis was incorrect," Prof. Balasubramanian explained.

As an alternative, he suggested the researchers could incorporate explainability implicitly in their deep-learning models - a direction that his group at IIT Hyderabad has been exploring. According to him, this would be akin to "teaching the model to learn to predict via reasoning, which is more robust".

(Sayantan Datta is a science journalist and a faculty member at Krea University. Tweets at @queersprings.)

Reducing fine particle matter could prevent thousands of premature deaths. AP

Biden govt. sets tighter standards for soot pollution

Associated Press

The Biden administration is setting tougher standards for deadly soot pollution, saying that reducing fine particle matter from tailpipes, smokestacks and other industrial sources could prevent thousands of premature deaths a year.

Environmental and public health groups hailed the new Environmental Protection Agency rule finalised Wednesday as a major step in improving the health of Americans, including future generations. Industry groups warned it could lead to loss of manufacturing jobs and even shut down power plants or refineries.

EPA Administrator Michael Regan said the rule would have $46 billion in net health benefits by 2032, including prevention of up to 800,000 asthma attacks and 4,500 premature deaths. He said the rule will especially benefit children, older adults and those with heart and lung conditions, as well as people in low-income and minority communities adversely affected by decades of industrial pollution.

The rule "really does represent what the Biden-Harris administration is all about, which is understanding that healthy people equal a healthy economy," he told reporters Tuesday. "We do not have to sacrifice people to have a prosperous and booming economy."

The rule sets maximum levels of 9 micrograms of fine particle pollution per cubic meter of air, down from 12 micrograms established a decade ago under the Obama administration.

There would be $46 billion in net health benefits by 2032, including prevention of up to 800,000 asthma attacks

The rule sets an air quality level that states and counties must achieve in the coming years to reduce pollution from power plants, vehicles, industrial sites and wildfires. The rule comes as Democratic President Joe Biden seeks reelection, and some Democrats have warned that a tough soot standard could harm his chances in key industrial states such as Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin.

Administration officials brushed aside those concerns, saying the industry has used technical improvements to meet previous soot standards and will be able to adapt to meet the new standard as well. Soot pollution has declined sharply in the past two decades, even as the U.S. gross domestic product has increased by more than 50%, Regan said.

"So we've heard this argument before, but the facts are well-established that these standards really will increase the quality of life for so many people, especially those who are disproportionately impacted," he said.

Industry groups and Republican officials said before the rule-making that a limit of 9 micrograms per cubic meter could sharply increase the number of U.S. counties in violation of the soot standard. Companies in those places would have difficulty obtaining permits to build or expand industrial plants.

Significantly lowering the standard for soot emissions "would threaten or prevent modernisation projects and other major improvements to paper mills," the American Forest and Paper Association said in a statement.

"As our industry modernises paper mills, we're improving air quality," including reductions in particulate matter, the group said. The paper lobby and other industry groups said in a letter to the White House that a lower soot standard could force companies to locate new facilities in foreign countries with weaker air-quality standards, thereby undermining the Biden administration's economic and environmental goals.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

The end of the Skylab 4 mission and its 'incident'

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

On February 8, 1974, the crew of the fourth mission to the NASA space station Skylab returned to ground, ending the mission. Name the three astronauts of the crew, all of whom were on their first space mission.

QUESTION 2

The Skylab 4 mission became famous for a particular incident (see Q3). But it was also notable for being the first mission to record a _____ _____ as it took shape from a space-borne camera. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 3

Near the mission's midpoint, the three crew members were overworked and stressed out. For a planned radio meeting with ground control, they decided one of the crew would attend while the other two caught up on pending tasks. However, during the meeting, the crew forgot to turn on their radios, so ground control received no updates for the meeting. This incident acquired mythical overtones in the press as the first what in space?

QUESTION 4

Following the meeting incident, NASA officials made many changes to improve the relationship between ground control and astronauts in space. One of them was that at least one astronaut with the ___ would have to be a veteran, not a first-timer. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 5

Name the record the Skylab 4 mission set that the Soviet Salyut 6 EO-1 mission broke in March 1978.

Answers to February 6 quiz:

1. Third plate of the Maraş Triple Junction – **Ans: African plate**
2. Fault that runs from Maraş Triple Junction to Karlıova Triple Junction – **Ans: East Anatolian Fault**
3. Common name for transcurrent fault – **Ans: Strike-slip fault**
4. Scale used to measure magnitude of the aftershocks – **Ans: Body-wave magnitude**
5. Scale on which the Turkey-Syria quakes had the highest magnitude – **Ans: Modified Mercalli Intensity scale**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Shamim Mondal

Visual: Name this watch. One of the Skylab 4 crew wore it, making it the first automatic chronograph in space. DNALOR 01 (CC BY-SA 3.0)

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Karnataka bans sale and consumption of hookah

According to the notification, the ban has been imposed under the provisions of COTPA, Child Protection and Welfare Act, and other laws. Violators to be penalised

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka government on Wednesday, issued a notification banning the sale, consumption, storage, advertisement, and promotion of all types of hookah products in the State with immediate effect.

In the larger interest of the public, the sale, consumption, storage, advertisement, and promotion of hookah and products containing tobacco or nicotine, non-tobacco and non-nicotine hookah, flavoured hookah, molasses, shisha, and other related products are prohibited, said the government notification. REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

Under COTPA

According to the notification, the ban has been imposed under the existing provisions of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), Child Protection and Welfare Act, Food Safety and Standards Act, and Karnataka Poisons (Possession and Sale) Rules, 2015.

Violators of this rule will be penalised under the existing provisions of these Acts, the notification stated.

"In the larger interest of the public, sale, consumption, storage, advertisement and promotion of hookah and products containing tobacco or nicotine, non-tobacco and non-nicotine hookah, flavoured hookah, molasses, shisha (hookah water pipe) and other related products are prohibited," the notification stated.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said the notification will enable the police to enforce the existing provisions more effectively.

Unlicensed bars

"Many unlicensed hookah bars have mushroomed, especially in Bengaluru and other cities, and have become a hub for sale and supply of drugs and substance abuse. Many minors are falling into the trap and getting addicted as there is no age restriction," he said.

A separate proposal to amend the law to increase the legal age for purchase or sale of tobacco products from 18 to 21 years is before the government, the Commissioner said.

Two businessmen stabbed to death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two businessmen were found stabbed to death at their shop in Kumbarapet on Wednesday. They have been identified as Suresh, 55, and his friend, Mahendra, 68.

Police said Suresh owned Hari Marketing, a kitchen appliance shop, in Kumbarapet, and that the murder took place between 8 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. when Mahendra had come to visit his friend. The assailants, armed with weapons, barged into the shop and stabbed Suresh, killing him on the spot.

Mahendra, who might have tried to save his friend, was also stabbed, the police said. One of the assailants has been secured, and the murder is suspected to be over a property dispute between relatives. The Halasuru Gate police have taken up a case of murder and are investigating further.

Two Tamil comedy dramas to be staged on February 11

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two Tamil comedy dramas LKG Aasai and Kasalavu Nesam by 'TV' Varadharajen and team will be held on February 11 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively. The programme will be held at Krishnadevaraya Kala Mandira, behind Chowdaiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval, Malleswaram, Bengaluru.

Tickets for the shows are available on bookmyshow.com

From Page One

Traffic police go 100% paperless with e-challan fine system

The system, which was launched initially in Bengaluru two years ago, has been extended Statewide after its success with additional features of integration with the State Treasury Department and a plan to link it with the virtual court to allow direct fines payments. With this, all stations across the State will go paperless, said Mr. Kumar. Violators booked for drunken driving or under special drives can pay fines through these virtual courts within seven days through the link shared.

In addition, there is a plan to integrate the e-challan devices with the improved CCTV cameras installed along the highways in the next phase, officials added.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated February 8, we have a photo essay on an ongoing exhibition in Bengaluru raising awareness about the fact that even large-bodied species coexist with people and how such reciprocations extend to urban spaces too.

Second phase of National Mental Health Survey to begin soon

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

The second phase of the National Mental Health Survey (NMHS-2) that will be planned and conducted by NIMHANS is all set to begin in a month. Preparations for NMHS-2 are underway, with goals to gather essential data for policy and programmes, address emerging mental health concerns, and establish comprehensive mechanisms to tackle mental health issues nationwide.

A file photo of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences in Bengaluru.

In 2014, concerned over the growing problem of mental health in India, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare entrusted NIMHANS to study the mental health status in the country.

Following that, the first National Mental Health Survey was undertaken during 2015-2016 in 12 States, covering nearly two-thirds of the population of the country. Karnataka was not part of the first survey, which indicated that around 150 million individuals had mental illnesses that required treatment in India.

Impact of COVID-19

NIMHANS director Pratima Murthy told *The Hindu* on Wednesday that in addition to the themes appraised in NMHS-1, the second phase of the national survey (NMHS-2) would enquire into emerging issues such as the impact of COVID-19.

"NMHS-2 is being planned across all 28 States and 8 Union Territories in the country," she said.

"The survey will look into mental health issues among tribal populations, the impact of climate change and disasters, perinatal and geriatric issues related to mental health, behavioural addiction such as social media and gaming addiction among other aspects," she said.

"A Mental Health System Assessment will also be conducted, involving Centres of Excellence and educational institutions. It would also include a component of evaluation of the District Mental Health Program (DMHP)," Dr. Murthy said.

Girish N. Rao, Professor of Epidemiology at NIMHANS, who is one of the Principal Investigators of the NMHS-2 and was also part of NMHS-1, said the first national survey had estimated the burden of mental health problems and healthcare-seeking patterns.

The NMHS-1 had revealed that the prevalence of mental morbidity was very high in urban centres, where there is a higher prevalence of schizophrenia, mood disorders and neurotic or stress-related disorders.

This could be due to fast-paced lifestyles, stress, complexities of living, a breakdown of support systems and challenges of economic instability, he said. "NMHS-2 is aimed at estimating the prevalence, assessing disability and care pathways, examining socio-economic impact, and characterising mental disorders in vulnerable populations. We will study the prevalence estimates of anxiety disorders, mood disorders, substance use disorders (alcohol and tobacco dependence), somatoform disorders, illness anxiety disorders, internet and gaming disorders including technology addiction at the State and national level," Dr. Girish explained. Another expected outcome is an assessment of the burden of illness on the family, he added.

Officials inspect progress of K-100 project in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To expedite development works under the K-100 project, Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner Shalini Rajneesh has given a slew of directions, including building of Intermediate Sewage Pumping Station.

On Wednesday, Ms. Rajneesh, along with officials, inspected development work at various locations along the 9.2 km stretch of the K-100 canal from Koramangala Rajakaluve to Bellandur Lake. The inspection was done to review the progress of canal development works. Additionally, officials reviewed the construction of a 05 MLD STP (Sewage Treatment Plant) near Kumbaragundi to purify the water flowing through the Rajakaluve. Ms. Rajaneesh instructed authorities to expedite the remaining works of STP and commence operations at the facility as soon as possible. Furthermore, officials inspected areas at Wilson Garden, where canal development works are under way. The officer inspected the site and instructed the Bangalore Urban Deputy Commissioner to conduct a survey to clear encroachment of the Rajakaluve.

The K-100 project, spanning 9.2 km, has seen significant progress. The lower section of the canal, previously polluted, has been completely cleaned, and arrangements have been made to ensure continuous flow of water, said an official. Structural enhancements, including the construction of retaining walls and culverts on both sides of the canal, have been completed.

Shifting your house? Consumers can soon delink Gruha Jyothi registration on Seva Sindhu

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After receiving several complaints from consumers about not being able to carry forward their Gruha Jyothi registrations when they shift houses, the Energy Department announced that a facility to delink these registrations will be provided on the Seva Sindhu portal.

The portal, where the consumers can currently register for the Gruha Jyothi scheme, will soon also have the option to disconnect from one meter and newly register for the scheme under another meter, while shifting or any such circumstances. The department has asked all the electricity supply companies (escoms) to make arrangements in this regard.

"We received several complaints from our consumers about not being able to avail the benefits of Gruha Jyothi when they shifted houses. In a city like Bengaluru, most people stay in rented houses, and we had requested the Energy Department to provide this option to help this customer base," said Mahantesh Bilagi, Managing Director, Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom).

"The officials concerned are currently working on making these changes in the software and we are expecting the delink option to be functional in the next few days," he added.

The State government's flagship Gruha Jyothi scheme provides free electricity, up to 200 units, to domestic consumers across the State. It was one among the five guarantees provided by the government.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, FEB. 08	
RISE 06:44	SET 18:23
RISE 05:12	SET 16:48
FRIDAY, FEB. 09	
RISE 06:44	SET 18:23
RISE 06:10	SET 17:54
SATURDAY, FEB. 10	
RISE 06:44	SET 18:24
RISE 07:03	SET 18:57

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	22
Mysuru	34	19
Bengaluru	34	17

Bengaluru Today
33°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will remain little warm. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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Six more locations on Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway to get AI-based ANPR cameras

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has approved the deployment of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras at six more locations on the Bengaluru-Mysuru access-controlled expressway to address violations and speeding.

A representational photo of a centre monitoring feed from Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras.

Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simmha revealed that the NHAI has earmarked ₹3.6 crore for installing the ANPR cameras. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), he stated that these cameras are tailored to capture speeding, lane discipline violations, wrong side movement, and activities of two and three-wheelers, among other offences.

He shared a letter on social media from the Indian Highways Management Company Limited, an NHAI initiative, informing that Tecsidel India Private Limited, based in Gurugram, Haryana, has been assigned the task of implementing the Video Incident Detection and Enforcement System (VIDES) on the Bengaluru-Mysuru section of National Highway-275.

In July 2023, Karnataka police began deploying Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based cameras on the highway. The ANPR cameras are operational near Amaravathi Hotel, close to Ummadahalli Gate.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The number of Vande Bharat trains operational at present

82 Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed Parliament that work is underway to increase the speed of Vande Bharat trains to 160 kilometres per hour on the New Delhi-Mumbai and New Delhi-Howrah routes. PTI

India's coal export to neighbouring nations from April-November

0.78 in million tonnes. Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi informed Parliament that India exported 2.945 million tonnes (MT) in 2020-21, 1.316 MT in 2021-22 and 1.166 MT in 2022-23. India exports coal to Nepal, Bangladesh, and Bhutan. PTI

Amount developing nations need by 2030 in climate finance

6 in $ trillion. COP-29 will prioritise climate finance, aiming to establish new post-2025 funding targets to assist developing nations in climate adaptation. Last year, the G-20 highlighted the need for $5.9 trillion before 2030 to implement national climate plans. PTI

Funds earmarked to boost India's defence space capabilities

25,000 in ₹ crore. Indian armed forces have kept aside funds for its defence space requirements, such as building a constellation of surveillance satellites, Chief of Defence Staff said. PTI

The UN seeks funds to help civilians and refugees from Sudan

4.1 in $ billion. The UN appealed for funds for embattled civilians in Sudan amid signs that some may be dying of starvation after nearly a year of war. About half of Sudan's people require support and protection. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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A history of the Northern Ireland conflict

What is the significance of the First Minister of Ireland being from the Sinn Fein? How did the two-year long political deadlock come to an end? What were 'The Troubles'? What were the main provisions of the Good Friday Agreement?

EXPLAINER

Joan Sony Cherian

The story so far:
On February 3, pro-Irish unity politician Michelle O'Neill from the Sinn Fein party made history by becoming the first Nationalist First Minister of Northern Ireland, after the opposition Democratic Union Party (DUP), the largest pro-U.K. party, returned to government ending a two-year long political deadlock in Northern Ireland.

What led to the political deadlock?
Northern Ireland is governed by a power-sharing agreement known as consociationalism as laid down in the Good Friday Agreement of 1998. This system believes that power should be shared equally between the various sectarian groups in a state, in this case, between the pro-Irish unity faction, called the Nationalists or Republicans, and the pro-U.K. faction, which are the Loyalists or the Unionists. Sinn Fein is the largest Nationalist political party (also left-wing), while the DUP is of the latter. The party that wins the largest vote-share will hold the First Minister position while the party with the second largest vote share will keep the post of Deputy First Minister. Of these two posts, one must be a Unionist and the other a Nationalist. Both positions hold equal weight and one cannot exist without the other.

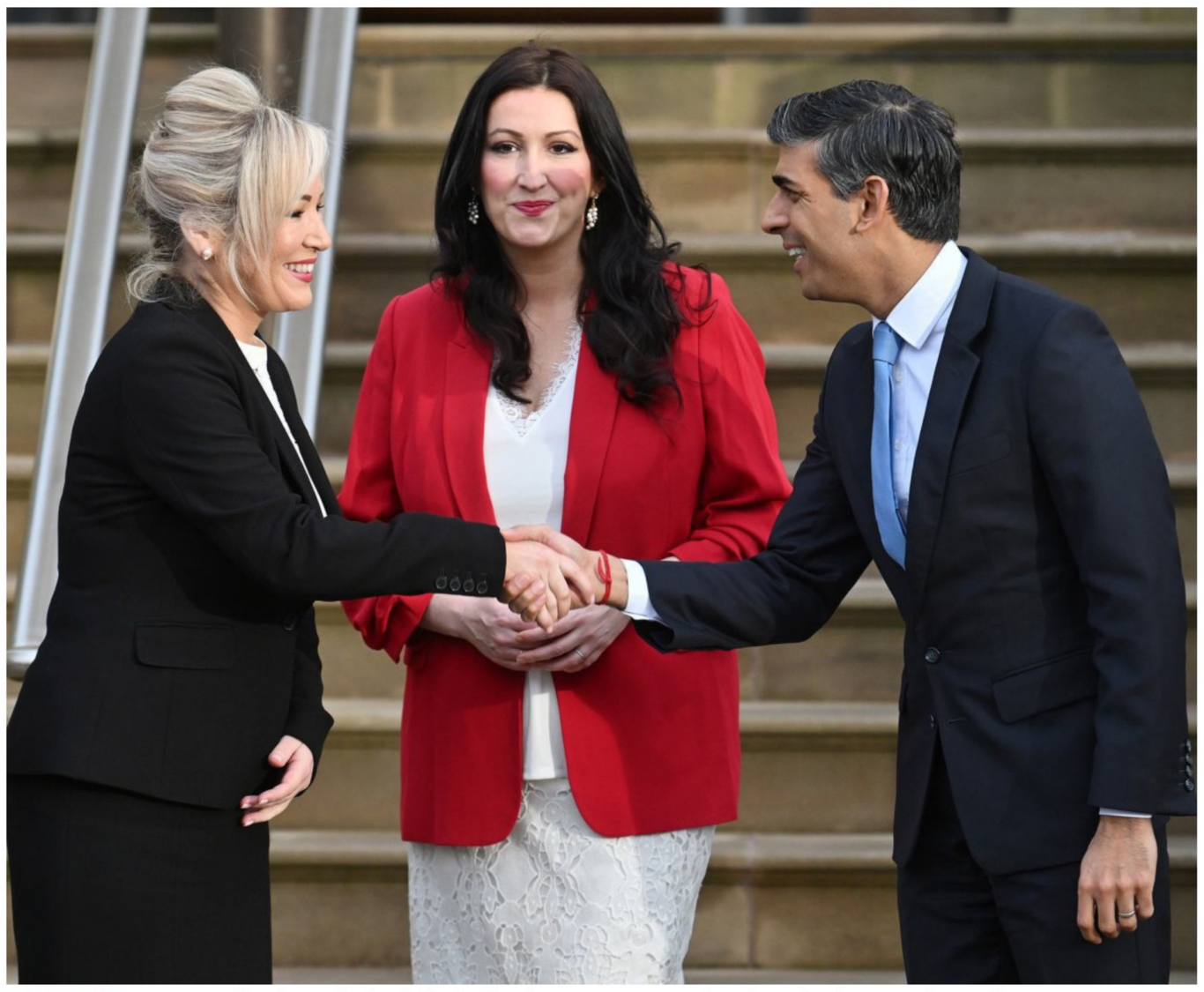
In the 2022 elections, Sinn Fein finished first with a 29% vote share, while the DUP secured the second position with a 21.3% vote share. However, a government was not formed as the DUP exited Stormont (Northern Ireland's Parliament) because it objected to the new border controls between Britain and the Island of Ireland, which came in the aftermath of Brexit. When the U.K. exited the EU, Northern Ireland became the only province to share a land border with an EU country (Republic of Ireland). The U.K. and the EU then came up with the Northern Ireland Protocol, which stipulated that the trade border, where goods are checked for compliance, would be shifted to the Irish ports, essentially making it a sea border. However, this was rejected by the DUP, which held that this was against the Good Friday agreement which sanctioned free movement of goods and people across borders. In protest, they exited the government and the political deadlock set in.

The U.K. and the EU then drew up fresh rules, called the Windsor Framework, which stated that on arrival at the border of Northern Ireland, goods will be demarcated into two. The ones which were entering the region would go into the 'green lane' with no inspections while those entering the Republic of Ireland (EU territory) would go to the 'red lane' for compliance checks. After assurance from the U.K. of Northern Ireland's place in its internal market, the DUP has agreed to return to government.

How did Northern Ireland come into being?
Northern Ireland was the site of a 30-year civil war (1968-1998) known as 'The Troubles' between the Republicans and the Unionists, which killed over 3,500 people. It also had a religious aspect to it with the Republicans being mostly Catholic and the Unionists being largely Protestants.

Northern Ireland was formerly part of the Ulster province, which lies to the north of modern-day Ireland. Conflict between the Protestants and the Irish Catholics goes all the way back to 1609, when King James I started an official policy of migration wherein people from England and Scotland were encouraged to move to Ulster to work in his various plantations there. The religious war that was being waged in much of Europe at the time, between the Protestants and the Catholics, made its presence felt in Ulster as well. However, a much stronger resistance was brewing. Ireland at the time was under the rule of England. The growing resistance against the colonial English rule, especially after the Potato Famine of 1845 where over 1 million Irish people died due to disease and starvation, cemented these sectarian and religious differences. Finally, in 1916, in the middle of the First World War, during Easter week, Ireland rose up in arms against colonial rule under the leadership of the Irish Republican Army (IRA). After a bloody war, it was able to gain independence from England with the Anglo-Irish treaty of 1921.

However, Ireland was split into two territories. As there was a protestant majority in Ulster, out of the 32 counties in Ireland, six remained with the U.K, forming the region of Northern Ireland.



Another term: First Minister of Northern Ireland, Michelle O'Neill, and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, Emma Little-Pengelly, greet U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak as he arrives at Stormont Castle on February 5, in Belfast, Northern Ireland. GETTY IMAGES

What led to the Good Friday agreement?
Peace did not come easy in Northern Ireland. The years that followed were rife with discrimination and instances of sectarian violence. The Irish Republicans being the minority were often victims of discrimination when it came to housing and public service jobs. Moreover, there have also been claims that elections were heavily skewed towards the Unionists due to gerrymandering practices. In the late 1960s, various protests against the Northern Ireland government descended into violence with the IRA and the Unionist paramilitary forces taking up arms.

The Troubles had officially started and the British Army was deployed to maintain peace. The Army was often accused of colluding with the Unionists against the Republicans. Walls were built between communities to segregate them, curfews were implemented and dissidents were being arrested without trial. However, violence continued and in 1972, in an incident known as Bloody Sunday, the British Army shot and killed at least 13 unarmed civilians during a protest march in the Bogside area of Derry. In its aftermath, the war spread to the mainland of the U.K. and Ireland, with attacks and bombings orchestrated in London and Dublin.

In the backdrop of the ever-increasing tit-for-tat violence between the IRA and the Unionists, in the 1980s, IRA's political wing Sinn Fein started taking a more active role in the political landscape of Northern Ireland. It contested elections and played a part in governance. At the same time, peace talks were also being negotiated with the U.S. acting as a mediator. The 1990s brought about a significant shift in the war. The public was weary of violence and wanted peace. Both parties agreed to a ceasefire and peace talks were in full swing. While the decommissioning of arms was heavily pushed by the U.K., both the IRA and the Unionists at the time refused to give up their arms entirely. Therefore, talks took the 'twin approach' wherein peace and decommissioning was to happen in parallel as a treaty was being reached.

Finally, on April 10, 1998, the Good Friday Agreement was signed in Belfast bringing to an end the 30-year-old civil war in Northern Ireland.

What is the Good Friday Agreement?
The Good Friday Agreement is a unique peace treaty in that it conceded to most of the demands from both sides of the conflict. The treaty had three main aspects – that the Northern Ireland government would be formed on the sovereign wishes of both Republicans and the Unionists and that they would share governance equally; that the people of Northern Ireland could seek reunification with Ireland any time subject to a referendum; and that the citizens of Northern Ireland can seek Irish or British nationality or both. It also abolished border checks and encouraged the freedom of movement of people across the U.K. and Ireland.

However, tensions of the conflict still linger in the region. The power sharing system has not been smooth. Stormont has fallen multiple times before the completion of a term.

The Assembly was suspended in 2000, in 2001, from 2002-2007 when Unionists withdrew from the executive and from 2017-2020.

In February 2022, the government again collapsed as Unionists withdrew over border controls between the U.K. and Northern Ireland.

What next?
The significance of a Nationalist First Minister cannot be understated. Ms. O'Neill said as much when she remarked that "we are in a decade of opportunity" indicating the possibility of a referendum on the reunification of the region with Ireland in the next 10 years.

However, in a paper released by the U.K. government, it said that it "sees no realistic prospect of a border poll leading to a united Ireland," citing recent polling. In a similar vein, Irish premier Leo Varadkar, whose government in principle supports a united Ireland, also said the question of reunification was "not for today."

THE GIST

Northern Ireland is governed by a power-sharing agreement which believes that power should be shared equally between the various sectarian groups in a state — in this case, between the pro-Irish unity faction, called the Nationalists or Republicans, and the pro-U.K. faction, which are the Loyalists or the Unionists.

Northern Ireland was the site of a 30-year civil war (1968-1998) known as 'The Troubles' between the Republicans and the Unionists, which killed over 3,500 people. The war finally ended in 1998 with signing of the Good Friday Agreement in Belfast.

The Good Friday Agreement is a unique peace treaty in that it conceded to most of the demands from both sides of the conflict. One of the main provisions of the treaty was that the people of Northern Ireland could seek reunification with Ireland any time subject to a referendum.

State govt. likely to amend APMC Act

It plans to bring back provisions that make it mandatory to purchase and sell notified agricultural produce in APMC yards

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The State government is likely to introduce amendment to the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act, bringing back provisions that make it mandatory to purchase and sell notified agricultural produce in APMC yards, subject to clearance by the Select Committee.

The Bill will bring changes to the APMC Act that had been passed by the earlier BJP government to remove the licence regime and enable farmers to sell their produce anywhere. The changes that were brought to the APMC Act during COVID-19 pandemic had been criticised by the Congress that was then in the Opposition, as well as a large number of farmer organisations across the State.

A view of the APMC yard at Yeshwantpur in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

A promise made

While the Congress had promised to roll back the amendment brought to the APMC Act, the farmers had pointed out at the depleting arrivals to APMC yards since sale and purchase had been deregulated.

In fact, soon after assuming power, the Congress government had made an attempt to bring an amendment to the Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation and Development) Act, 1966. The government moved the amendment Bill in July 2023. Though it had been passed by the Legislative Assembly on July 17, 2023, it failed to get the nod of the Legislative Council as it was referred to the select committee on July 18.

Among the provisions in the proposed amendment are authorising the Director of Agricultural Marketing and officers authorised by him to issue licence, providing penal provision for using any place for marketing any agricultural produce without a valid licence, and for purchase or sale of notified agricultural produce in contravention of the provisions of the Act. The amendment will also specify the places which can be used for purchase or sale of notified agricultural produce.

Language Bill

Among about 16 Bills that are likely to come before the legislature during the 10-day Budget session starting next Monday is also the Karnataka Language Comprehensive Development (Amendment) Bill, 2024, that mandates display in nameboards to be 60% in Kannada language and Kannada to be displayed in the upper half of the same board.

Though State government had sent a proposal to promulgate an Ordinance in this respect, the Governor had sent the proposal back to the government asking it to secure the nod of the Legislature since the session dates had been finalised.

The Karnataka Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) (Amendment) Bill, 2024, is also likely to be moved to exempt the office of Adviser to the Chief Minister, Financial Adviser to Chief Minister, and Chairman or Member to any commission from incurring disqualification for being a member of the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council. The amendment is being moved due to recent appointments that were made by the Congress government to quell dissidence.

To enable police officers to understand their jurisdiction better and build good relation with the public, the Karnataka Police (Amendment) Bill, 2024, is likely to be moved to increase the tenure of police officers in operational duties from one year to two years. The Karnataka Motor Transport and Other Allied Worker's Social Security and Welfare Bill, 2024, will be moved to provide levy and collection of cess on motor vehicles for financing schemes to provide social security to workers in transport and allied sectors. The Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2024, is being moved to enhance tax on motor vehicles.

HC expresses concern over growing trend of 'malicious parent syndrome'

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has expressed concern over the growing trend of "malicious parent syndrome", the use of a child by a parent to settle scores with the other parent, by falsely portraying that the child was sexually assaulted by the other.

"The wrangling parents forget that they are projecting their own child to have been a subject of such assault. The negative impact of such projection on the psyche of the child is unimaginable. The parents should therefore ponder and introspect before making such allegations. If it [allegation] is true, law will take its course, but if it is projected [falsely] for the purpose of custody, as is done in the case at hand, there can be no bigger sin that the parents can commit," the court observed.

False case

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while quashing a false case of sexual assault on a minor girl registered, based on a complaint lodged by the girl's biological father, who is the former husband of the girl's mother, against the present husband of the girl's mother.

The petitioner, who is the third and the present husband of girl's mother, had questioned the legality of criminal proceedings initiated for alleged sexual assault registered both under the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act against him by the complainant.

The court quashed the case after noticing that the girl's voluntary statements, recorded twice by the judicial magistrate under Section 164 of the Cr.PC in connection with two criminal cases lodged against the petitioner and the girl's mother, in which the girl denied all allegations of sexual assault against the petitioner and others.

Statement recorded

The girl, whose separate statements were recorded when she was 12 and 14 years, respectively, had also clarified to the magistrate that the complainant had "forced" her to memorise the false statement given against her mother, stepfather (petitioner), and maternal uncle, the court noted, while also pointing out that girl was unhappy with her biological father during her stay with him.

Though the girl's mother and the biological father divorced in 2017, the custody of the girl remained with the mother and the father had visitation rights. However, as per the agreement, the girl was to stay with the non-travelling parent when one of the parent was travelling.

Multiple criminal cases

Subsequently, the girl's mother married the petitioner and she left to the U.S. in 2018 to complete studies leaving the girl with the biological father, who did not handover the custody of the girl to her mother even after her return during mid 2019.

This resulted in registration of multiple criminal cases between the girl's biological father and the mother, and the case of sexual assault was one among them. The complainant (biological father) had made the girl's mother, maternal uncle, and the petitioner as accused. Though the chargesheet was filed only against the uncle, the trial court had taken cognisance even against the petitioner.

"It is clearly in gross abuse of the penal provisions by the complainant to settle his idiosyncratic scores with the child's mother, who had left him and married the petitioner. It is unfortunate that the provisions of POCSO Act, which are meant to protect the child from abuse, are being misused by a protagonist of the crime in the case at hand," the court observed.

BJP stages protest accusing Cong. govt. of 'hoodwinking people'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While the ruling Congress held a protest in New Delhi on Wednesday against the "injustice" meted out to the State by the Centre in devolution of funds, the Opposition BJP staged a counter-protest in Bengaluru against the government accusing it of trying to "hoodwink people of the State".

The BJP leaders, including State president B.Y. Vijayendra, Leaders of the Opposition in both the Houses of the State legislature R. Ashok and Kota Srinivas Poojari, former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and party legislators, took part in the protest held in front of Mahatma Gandhi's statue on the premises of the Vidhana Soudha.

Addressing the protesters, Mr. Vijayendra termed the Congress government's protest in Delhi against the Centre as a "drama" and maintained that people of the State would teach a lesson to them by sending them home in the next Assembly elections.

He accused the Congress government of failing to handle the drought in the State. The State had failed to provide adequate allocation to UKP or take measures to take the proposed Mekedatu project forward, he said. It even diverted funds meant for the welfare of SC/ST communities to other works as it had emptied its financial reserves, Mr. Vijayendra said. To cover up for its failures, the Congress government was trying to show the Centre in poor light by staging a dharna in Delhi, he alleged. Mr. Vijayendra declared that the BJP would take up protests against the Congress government's failures in all districts in the coming days.

Mr. Ashok alleged that farmers were not getting even two hours of three-phase power supply though the government claimed it was supplying three-phase power for seven hours a day. Similarly, industries were facing a tough time due to power supply issues, he said.

There was some drama just before the dharna in front of the statue, as the authorities had locked all the gates of the Vidhana Soudha barring one. Taking serious exception to this, Mr. Vijayendra alleged that there was an "undeclared emergency" in the State under the Congress rule. Wondering if the legislators did not have the right to enter the Vidhana Soudha premises, he accused the Congress government of trying to oppress the BJP leaders and workers.

"The Congress dispensation is developing cold feet as the Lok Sabha polls are nearing. They are tense when they hear Prime Minister Narendra Modi's name and fall unconscious if anyone chants Jai Sriram," he remarked.

The protesters were taken into custody by the police and later released.

Police stop Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok and BJP supporters during their protest against the State government at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Wednesday. ANI

Drama over laying siege

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

High drama prevailed as the Opposition BJP members tried to lay siege to the office of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the Vidhana Soudha and the Youth Congress workers reciprocated by trying to lay siege to the BJP State office in Malleswaram. Both attempts were foiled by the police. However, workers of both the parties indulged in slogan shouting as commotion broke out.

Two Ministers seek AIIMS in Raichur

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ministers Sharan Prakash Patil and N.S. Boseraju called on Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday and appealed to him to establish AIIMS in Raichur.

After the meeting, Mr. Patil said the demand for AIIMS in Raichur was long pending and only a couple of States, including Karnataka, had not been given the premier institution.

Career guidance session held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Mind and Matter, an NGO, in collaboration with the Directorate of Child Protection, Department of Women and Child Development, held a career guidance programme recently for 250 children from childcare institutions of all districts of Karnataka.

Volunteers, trained in the Department of Psychiatric Social work, NIMHANS, conducted activities to assist children to build psycho-emotional and social competencies.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR.
I.F.T.No:EE/PWD/VJP/PB/5054-Appendix-E/2023-24/4650 Dated:06.02.2024
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement)

The- **Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept. Division, Vijayapur** Invites tenders from eligible tenderers (registered in Public Works Department) Total 4 works, As per standard bid documents KW-4 with 5054-Appendix-E SH & MDR Improvement head of account costing of amount for Minimum Rs. 200.00 Lakhs & Maximun Rs. 500.00 Lakhs, the EMD amount of Minimum Rs.3,00,000.00 and Maximum Rs. 7,50,000.00 for the works. For above work G.S.T amount will be paid to the Contractor separately and Increase in G.S.T shall not be paid in the extended period of Contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time. The calendar events of tenders, dates are fixed as follows (1) Pre-Bid Meeting for Contractors Date- 09-02-2024 upto 11.00 AM (2) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders Date-15-02-2024 upto 4.30 PM. (3) Opening of Technical Bid Date-16-02-2024 at 04:31 PM. (4) Opening of Financial Bid Date-19-02-2024 at 11.00 AM. Clause-3 Conditions of Standard Bid Document may be seen in Departmental Website i.e "https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in" and for more information may contact help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 91 80 46010000, +91 80 68948777) or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Vijayapur
DIPR/VIJAYAPURA/443/KSMCA/2023-24

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020
Tender No. BDA/2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT13 Date: 07.02.2024
INVITATION FOR SHORT-TERM TENDER
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

BDA invites short-term tenders for **"Providing New Devices for the timer operation, replacing the worn out meter boxes and re-stringing of sagged lines at Banashankari Layout 6th Stage from 1st to 11th Blocks, BDA, Bengaluru". Calendar of Events : (1)** Date of Downloading the tender document: **07.02.2024. (2)** Last date and time for receipt of tenders in e-Portal: **21.02.204, 16.00 Hrs. (3)** Date and time for opening of Technical & Financial bid: **After 22.02.2024,17.00 hrs.**
For more details please refer e-procurement portal from the website: **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact at office of the Executive Engineer (Elec.), BDA, T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru. Contact No.: +91 9845630164, For queries contact email id: **eeelec.bda@gmail.com**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele.), Electrical Division, BDA, Bengaluru

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (Ele), East Zone, 16th Floor, PU Building, MG Road, Bangalore - 560 001.
No.:BBMP/EE/ELE/East/TEND/06/2023-24 Date:07.02.2024
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Single Cover System)

The Executive Engineer (Ele), East Zone invites tenders from eligible KCEI / KPWD registered contractors for the works detailed in the table below:

Providing Energy Efficient LED Street Lights with accessories in various Wards of East Zone.

Sl. No.	Ward Nos. of the Work	Est. Cost of work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
For Others Category			
1	Ward Nos. 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 70, 73, 75, 77, 78, 79, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 108, 109 110, 111, 112, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 166, 167, 168, 170 171 & 172.	**5.00** for each Ward	**12,500/-** for each Ward
For SC Category			
2	Ward Nos. 71, 74, 76, 80, 113, 115, 121 & 169.	**5.00** for each Ward	**6,250/-** for each Ward
For ST Category			
3	Ward Nos. 68, 69, 114 & 72.	**5.00** for each Ward	**6,250/-** for each Ward

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement portal: **12.02.2024 onwards. 2)** Last date for submission of Bid documents: **20.02.2024 upto 16:00 Hrs. 3)** Date of opening of Tenders: **21.02.2024 at 16.00 Hrs.** Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact e-procurement helpdesk at : 080-25501216 / 25501227 or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele), East Zone.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the, Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari
No.PWD/EE/Bly/TS-4/4592/2023-24 Date : 03-02-2024.
Short Term Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division, Bellary invites the tenders for the work detailed in the table from the eligible contractors registered in Karnataka Public Works Department, through e-procurement portal-02. Two cover tender procedure as per KTPP Act shall be followed. The tender documents can be downloaded from the web-site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For any additional information the tenderers may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours.

Note : For any changes either in tender dates or any other conditions, tenderers can view in e-procurement portal-02 **TABLE**

Sl No	Details of Work	Estimate Cost (Rs.in Lakhs)
	5054-(Plan)-Improvements to District and Other Roads :	
1)	PWD/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT7252	500.00
	3054-(Non-Plan)-Maintenance of State Highways :	
2)	PWD/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT7983	130.00
3)	PWD/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT7984	135.00
4)	PWD/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT7985	135.00

The Tender Events are as under:
2)Last dates for queries (through e-procurement portal): **09-02-2024 upto 12.00 Hours**
3)Last date for submission of tenders through e-procurement portal: **12-02-2024 upto 16.00 Hours.** 4)Date and time of opening of Technical Bids: **13-02-2024 at 16.30 Hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari**

Sd/-Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/800/KSMCA/2023-24

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಖನಿಜ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಾನ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ್, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ-583101
Telephone: 08392-277100 Fax: 08392-272538
Email: dmfbly@gmail.com
ಸಂ.ಕಂ.ಗಣಿ/ಡಿ.ಎಂ.ಎಫ್-2/284/2021-22 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.02.2024
E-Auction ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

2023-24 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಖನಿಜ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಾನ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ್, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಖನಿಜ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ಎಂಡೋಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು **Public Sector/ RRB, Private scheduled Commercial** ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಿರ ಠೇವಣಿ ಮಾಡಲು ನಿಯಾಮಾನುಸಾರ ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಇ-ಇಂಥಿಣುಟಿ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ **Public Sector/ RRB, Private scheduled Commercial** ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ಗಳು ಸದರಿ **E-Auction** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ. **E-Auction RD/2023-24/Auction7** ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜುಗಳನ್ನು http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.02.2024** ರಿಂದ **20.02.2024** ರ **ಸಂಜೆ 05.30** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

1.E- Auction Published Date : **06.02.2024 @ 05.30 PM.** 2.Date of uploading bid Documents in e-portal: **06.02.2024 @ 05.30 PM.** 3.Pre Auction Meeting @ DMFT Cell, DC Office Bly: **16.02.2024 @ 11.30 AM.** 4.Last date to upload the Declaration in Schedule A & B along with adhering documents as requested : **20.02.2024 @ 5.00 PM.** 5.Evaluation of documents : **21.02.2024 @ 5.10 PM.** 6.E- Auction Start & End Date: **26.02.2024 @ 11.00 AM to 5.30 PM.** 7.Probable date of Investment confirmation to selected bank: **Last Week Feb-2024**

E- Auction ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ವಿಶೇಷಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಖನಿಜ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಾನ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ್, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. (ದೂ. ಸಂ: 08392-295468)

ಸಹಿ/-ವಿಶೇಷಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಖನಿಜ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಾನ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ್ ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ.
ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ/803/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2023-24

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Strike a fine balance, have a just civil code

The Law Commission of India should aim to eliminate only those practices that do not meet the benchmarks set by the Constitution of India

Faizan Mustafa
Anant Sangal

On February 7, Uttarakhand passed the Uniform Civil Code. In this article, dated June 24, 2023, Faizan Mustafa and Anant Sangal argue that the proposed UCC must be emblematic of India's 'mosaic model' of multiculturalism.

On June 14, the Law Commission of India decided to solicit views and proposals from the public about the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). After a hiatus of just five years, when the Commission had concluded that the 'UCC is neither necessary nor desirable', the move now is one that keeps the pot boiling on one of India's most ideologically as well as politically rivalled issue. Though we believe that the enactment of the UCC in piecemeal manner would be in tune with the spirit of Article 44, the attempt here is to invite attention to one particular consideration that must weigh with the Commission as it undertakes this exercise de novo.

GETTY IMAGES

Autonomy versus authority

The question of personal laws is basically the question of personal and religious autonomy versus the state's authority to reform familial relations. Since each religious group has cultural autonomy, it is thus being argued that the community should itself come forward to seek reforms. This is the justification for the adoption of internal law reform or voluntary UCC. In fact, the Special Marriage Act, 1954 and the Indian Succession Act, 1925 are nothing but examples of voluntary adoption of the UCC though the recently enacted love jihad laws by prohibiting inter-faith marriages basically violate the spirit of Special Marriage Act.

There are also regional differences, i.e. Kerala had abolished the Hindu Joint Family in 1975; Muslim marriage and divorces are to be registered in Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand under the 1876 law, and in Assam under 1935 law, and adoption was permissible to Kashmiri Muslims.

At present, not just Muslims but even Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, Sikhs, Parsis, and Jews are governed by their own personal laws. Accordingly, believe it or not, it is the religious identity that determines which personal law would apply to a group of individuals. Even reformed Hindu Personal Law under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 does insist on solemnisation of marriage, through saptapadi (seven steps around fire) and datta (invocation before fire). Section 7(2) of the Act, just like Manusmriti (8.227), provides that marriage is completed on the seventh step. Sapinda relationship, adoption and Hindu Joint Family rules too are based on the Hindu Personal Law.

Surprisingly when two Hindus marry under the Special Marriage Act, 1954 (Section 21A inserted in 1976), they continue to be governed by Hindu Personal Law, but if two Muslims marry under this legislation, the Muslim Personal Law (MPL) would no longer govern them. Interestingly, a person who renounces Hinduism too continues to be governed by the Hindu Personal Law.

The Constitution was not the starting point but a mere culmination of India's long-standing integrative traditions. In addition to the provisions that outlaw discrimination in all its forms, the Indian Constitution's commitment to cultural accommodation is visible through a near-absolute fundamental right in Article 29(1) dedicated exclusively to conserving the distinctive culture of all citizens. However, do Muslims of India have the courage to argue that polygamy or arbitrary unilateral divorce even in anger or while in an intoxicated state could be considered a part of their culture?

Unity more than uniformity

That said, the Commission must bear in its recommendation that for a diverse and multicultural polity such as India, the proposed UCC must be emblematic of India's 'mosaic model' of multiculturalism. The logic is invariably obvious – a homogenising lithification of identities must not become a mirage for flourishing diversity (something that has consistently remained peculiar to the American model of multiculturalism). After all, unity is far more important than uniformity. The British brought homogeneity amongst Hindus and Muslims by grossly undermining heterogeneity within the two religious communities.

Under the Indian Constitution, the right to cultural autonomy defends the Indian model of multiculturalism. Prominent scholars on multiculturalism such as Rochana Bajpai suggest that the Indian Constitution offers two major approaches with respect to accommodation of difference – integrationist and restricted multicultural. While the affirmative action policies largely land in the first approach's camp, for Ms. Bajpai, "state assistance to minority cultures has been seen as an illegitimate concession [...]" and is often termed as 'appeasement of minorities'.

This, as Ms. Bajpai furthers, leaves cultural difference without any robust constitutional normative underpinnings. In short, it is through these two approaches that the Constitution makes way for cultural accommodation and a celebration of group differences. Accordingly, the 21st Law Commission (2015-18) had boldly favoured equality between men and women in communities rather than aiming for equality between communities. A just code should be the primary goal as just laws are more important than a mere one uniform law.

Having this discussion as the backdrop, India's tryst with preserving its multicultural diversity is often found at the crossroads with values such as secularism. Despite secularism being a fundamental tenet governing the Indian polity, India decided not to adopt the French model of *laïcité*, which strictly prohibits bearing any religious outfit or marker in public; that considers religion in public as a threat (and not a prominent promoter) to the nation's secular fabric – thus pushing it within only the four walls of the domestic household. Indian society, therefore, 'accommodates' and not just 'tolerates' the wide array of group and ethnic differences.

When groups claim and effectuate their multi-ethnic traditions without impinging on the rights and liberties of their fellow citizens, their traditions and values acquire the status of social mores for they fulfil a much broader purpose of social and national integration.

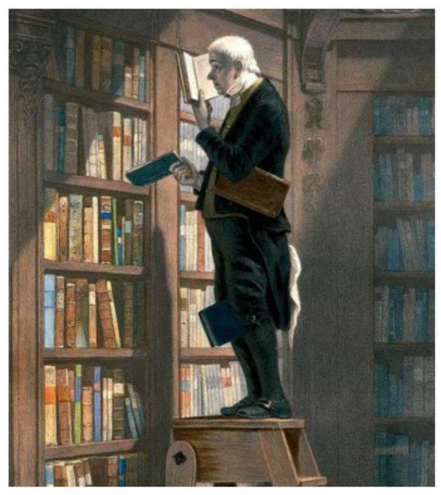
However, a claim of such broad nature invites limitations inherent – in the name of personal laws and practices, what deserves legal protection and promotion and what does not. Right to cultural-relativism cannot justify continuation of unjust and discriminatory personal laws. Such provisions of the personal laws must be made consistent with substantive equality and gender justice goals espoused in the Constitution.

Hurdles on the path ahead

Simultaneously, we must understand that when a community feels threatened in any way, whether rightly or wrongly so, the collective esteem of its members becomes woven to the community, and community allegiance becomes much stronger. Therefore, one hopes that the Law Commission of India would not contribute to the rise of reactive culturalism amongst different communities in India, including Muslims. The Muslim community too must understand that the MPL and Islam are not one and the same. The MPL is a jurist given law and is not entirely divine. In fact, it is more appropriate to call it Anglo-Muhammadan law that was derived in certain matters from the erroneously translated secondary sources rather than the Koran and Sunna of the Prophet. British courts treated juristic opinions in the MPL on a par with statutory laws enacted by the legislature and by insisting on the British doctrine of precedent, they further brought in a lot of rigidity in the MPL. If MPL reforms that rely on inter-school borrowing could be accepted by the Ulema way back in 1939, why cannot this be done today? Let the Muslim clergy come forward and lead the MPL reform process by identifying the discriminatory and oppressive issues and adopt the views of progressive jurists.

As the Commission proposes an overhauling secularisation of various socio-religious-cultural practices that have been the mainstay of thousands of religious and ethnic communities since times immemorial, the path ahead is not going to be free from hurdles. In the words of political philosopher Iris Young, as the value of social difference is more relational and is itself a product of social processes, we believe that it will be incumbent upon the Commission to strike a fine balance as it should aim to eliminate only those practices that do not meet the benchmarks set by the Constitution.

Faizan Mustafa is an expert in constitutional law. Anant Sangal is an advocate practising law before the Supreme Court of India



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Dr. S. Ramanujam, Defence Food Research Laboratory, Mysore wants to know whether 'put up' is correctly used in the sentence 'Put up the letter at the next meeting'."

" 'Put up' in this sentence is correctly used. 'Put up' here means 'present an idea etc. for discussion or consideration'.

You must put up a specific proposal for the project.

'Put up' has several meanings. 'Put up' means 'to build or raise into position.'

Who has put up this tent here?

Put up your hand if you want to attend the party.

It also means 'to show, give in a fight or competition.'

They put up a stiff fight.

They put up a good show at the function.

'Put up' also means 'to fix or fasten something in a place where it can be seen, display something.'

Please put up the notice in a prominent place.

Another meaning of 'put up' is 'to raise or increase.'

Vegetable vendors put up the price of vegetables the day the curfew was lifted.

It also means 'to provide food and lodging for.'

I am sorry I can't put you up in my place as I have a lot of guests.

I put up at an ordinary hotel when I went to Pune.

'Put up for something' means 'to suggest as being suitable for a job, etc.'

I am planning to put her up for the post of Secretary of the Club.

'Put somebody up to something' means 'urge or encourage someone to do something mischievous or illegal.'

He is a nice chap. But what he has done is unbelievable. Somebody must have put him up to it.

'To put up with something or some one' is 'to tolerate or bear.'

I don't know how she puts up with her husband.

We have to put up with the situation. There is no way out.

'A put-up job' is 'a scheme to cheat or deceive someone.'

I didn't realise it was a put-up job.

'Put upon' means 'badly treated, misused or exploited'. This is used as an adjective.

I feel rather put-upon when I am treated like that.

Everyone is sorry that she is a put-upon person.

'Put up' has so many meanings. You have to put up with them."

"Mr. B. N. Prasanna, Second Mail Road, Vyalikaval, Bangalore, wants to know whether there is a general term for words like breathalyser (breath plus analyser), brunch (breakfast plus lunch), sexploitation (sex plus exploitation)."

"These words have been formed by combining parts of two words and their meanings. Such words are called portmanteau words. Some more words: motel, guesstimate, sexciting."

Published in The Hindu on January 14, 1991.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The Grammy Awards 2024 ended on a high note with female artists making history. Here is a quiz on the winners of the coveted musical accolades

Abhinaya. K

QUESTION 1

Singer Tyla took home a Grammy for her hit song "Water". She won the award for a category that was inaugurated this year. Name the category.

QUESTION 2

Meryl Streep, William Shatner, Bernie Sanders, and Michelle Obama were all nominated for a Grammy. The former first lady won the accolade. Identify the category under which they were all nominated.

QUESTION 3

This R&B artist was nominated for seven Grammys and won three of them. Her two-year-old daughter made history as the Grammy's youngest nominee as she was nominated along with her mother for best traditional R&B performance. Identify the artist.

QUESTION 4

American singer-songwriter Olivia Rodrigo won the Grammy for Best New Artist this year for her hit album 'Guts'. Is the statement true or false?

QUESTION 5

This comedian hosted the show again this year, marking his fourth consecutive turn at the helm of the ceremony. He was also nominated for a Grammy. Name the comedian and the winner of the category.

QUESTION 6

Apart from a song from *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*, all the other songs in this category including the winner, were from the same movie. Identify the movie.

Visual question:

This artist won the most awards at Grammys 2024. She won three awards as a member of a rock band. Name the band. AP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The name of the collection of short pieces Dickens originally published in various newspapers. **Ans: Sketches by Boz**
2. The term used to describe something reminiscent of Dickens and his writings. **Ans: Dickensian**
3. This Dickens' character is a wealthy spinster who insists on wearing her wedding dress for the rest of her life. **Ans: Miss Havisham**
4. This writer remarked that *Great Expectations* was more seditious than the Das Kapital. **Ans: George Bernard Shaw**
5. This word is most associated with Scrooge. It is referred to in the novella *A Christmas Carol* like this. **Ans: Humbug, "Bah! Humbug!"**
6. Name the two cities in Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*. **Ans: London, Paris**
7. Identify the character and the novel. **Ans: Samuel Pickwick; *The Pickwick Papers***
Early Birds: Varghese Joseph| C. Saravanan| Dipankar Baidya| Vasudha A. S.| Sadhan Kumar Panda

Word of the day

Kvetch:
express complaints, discontent, displeasure, or unhappiness

Synonyms: kick, sound off, plain, complain

Usage: *She's kvetching all the time about her new job.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/kvetchpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kvɛtʃ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Listen to these stories of human-wildlife coexistence

An ongoing exhibition in Bengaluru raises awareness about the fact that even large-bodied species coexist with people

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A wild sloth bear at the Chandi Mata temple which is visited by hundreds of devotees every day. RAJARSHI BANERJI

A tiger sits languidly below a culvert, even as a group of men walk above; an owl perches on the window of a house; a bear stands next to the statue of a tiger in what is obviously a human habitation.

These are some of the images on show at the ongoing exhibition, "Common Ground: Stories of Human-Wildlife Coexistence", which is part of Collective Coexistence Consortium's month-long programmes in Bengaluru under the title "Coexistence: The Great Elephant Migration." The exhibition is among various programmes including talks, demonstrations and shows around the theme of human-animal interface.

Overlapping realms

"People often think about human-dominated and wild spaces as two entirely different worlds. However, with increasing anthropogenic pressures including climate change and shrinking natural cover on our planet, these realms overlap more often than we realise. In an attempt to highlight the many facets of human-wildlife interactions, this curated set of images by Nature inFocus showcases how human and wildlife activities and geographies overlap," said a release from the organisers on the theme of the photo exhibition.

"The exhibition raises awareness about the fact that even large-bodied species coexist with people and how such reciprocations extend to urban spaces and other human-dominated and human-used habitats. Birds, spiders, dolphins, leopards, elephants and tigers – the staggering number of species that humans commonly encounter and interact with -- warrants a wider public discourse, which the exhibition endeavours to facilitate," the release said.

The contributing photographers are passionate about wildlife and conservation storytelling and the images represent species large and small, from across diverse habitats in India, the organisers said.

Venues of show

The exhibition is at Science Gallery Bengaluru (https://maps.app.goo.gl/Ba54eNynUG9qg1vt6) till Sunday, February 11, between 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

It moves to Infosys Science Foundation (https://maps.app.goo.gl/KHmtdbuvkgiX5xDa8) from Monday, February 19, to Sunday, February 25. It is on from 9.30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays, and from 9.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends.

Get full details on events through the month at https://www.coexistence-consortium.com/.

In the plantation-dominated landscape of Valparai, which is surrounded by protected areas on all sides, herds of wild elephants have to traverse through tea fields and coffee estates to access the fragments of forests scattered across the landscape. Here is a herd with a young calf on their journey to the nearest forest fragment. GANESH RAGHUNATHAN

Pilgrims returning from the Soleshwar Mahadev Temple pass over the bridge, unaware of the big cat beneath their feet. Spotted at Zone 6 of Ranthambore National Park. SOUMABRATA MOULICK

The most widespread land bird species in the world, the Barn Owl, can often be spotted in abandoned buildings. SUHAS HEBBAR

A lion-tailed macaque peeks out of a cracked window pane of a home in Valparai. KALYAN VARMA

The camera trap image portrays the peaceful coexistence of leopards with humans in Mumbai's Aarey Colony. KAPIL SHARMA

Dear Pandemic: A visual narrative of resilience and reflection

Show is a reflection of encounters with people and places that shaped the artist's journey during the unprecedented times of the pandemic

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Chithkala Ramesh, a UX designer by profession and an alumnus of the College of Fine Arts - Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath (CKP), is presenting her second solo show titled *Dear Pandemic*, at CKP till February 12. Chithkala recalls her COVID-19 pandemic stories in this show through life size paintings of rather unusual elements.

Lock-down

Dear Pandemic recounts moments of reflection, encounters with people, places and hope that shaped the artist's journey during the unprecedented times of the pandemic. In this exhibition, Chithkala presents the world gripped by the lock-down, witnessed through her experiences and lived memories from a time of fragile existence.

These intimate conversations with herself, forged around the instances of vulnerability, strength and resilience, inspired the creation of this series of heartfelt visual letters, in the form of postcards paintings. As one navigates through the artworks, one may discover solace, empathy, and hope, interwoven by shared experiences during this extraordinary time.

Story telling through art

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Chithkala says, "This is more than a passion project for me. I have taken a 6-month sabbatical to put together this show. More than just painting, I also like narrating stories through art. I feel storytelling is one of my biggest strengths as an artist, which helps me create projects like these."

Some of the artworks put up at the exhibition by Chithkala Ramesh.

Within this exhibition, viewers will uncover not only the artist's personal narrative but perhaps a reflection of their own journey.

According to Chithkala, though the pandemic has been mostly a negative phase, she has tried to capture the binary experiences of life lived through, a contrasting nature of positive and negative.

"This show is about how I experienced the 2-3 years of the pandemic that hit the entire world... I travelled across Karnataka, Goa, Uttarakhand, stayed in a couple of B&Bs there and discovered the colour pallets I wanted for this project. Though the pandemic might be a negative memory for many, the colour pallets for this show evokes a positive feeling. The colour pallets I have used are light blue, pink and similar colours which are usually associated with happiness or a new beginning," says Chithkala.

Varied emotions

This show is a nuanced portrayal of varied emotions and realities and the people, places, animals who were part of the artist's life during that time. In a way, this exhibition is about coming to terms and bidding a final goodbye with hope, saying "Life goes on."

The artist says that this is not a commercial show with many paintings not for sale.

"There is a painting that talks about the time my father had a heart attack during the pandemic, and what I went through during that period. The idea is to share my story with as many people as possible. Ever since the show started, people have walked up to me and have shared their pandemic stories, some thank me, some are teary-eyed. I only hope that more people get to witness this and share their stories with me till the show is on," Chithkala says.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 8, 1974

K.G.F. College Students' Plea Rejected

Kolar Gold Fields, Feb. 7: The Governing Council of the KGF First Grade College, at its meeting held here yesterday with Mr. M.G. Pramasivaiah, Deputy Commissioner and Chairman of the Governing Council in the Chair, unanimously expressed its inability to consider the request of the College Students' Union to return the sum of Rs. 30 per annum collected as donation from students. The Governing Council reiterated its desire to hand over the college to the government. There are nearly 2,000 students, studying in this private college and more than 50% of them are non-paying students. Two years ago the Governing Council on a representation from students reduced the quantum of donation from Rs. 50 to Rs. 30 per year.

Nijalingappa's Plea for Removal of Food Control

Bangalore, Feb. 7: Mr. S. Nijalingappa, Congress (O) leader today wanted the Government to give up the "farce" of food control because of its "miserable failure" to put it into practice effectively.

In a talk with pressmen, Mr. Nijalingappa said that inspite of an admittedly good Kharif crop, the rate of price rise had not been brought down. The Government was not able to supply food articles in full in informal rationing areas. Black market was thriving. The ryots were unwilling to part with their grain to the Government under the levy system as they got a better price in the open market. Corruption was widespread at all levels, he added.

Up the Irons

Bangalore Open Air is back in the city this weekend, featuring bands such as Kreator which headined the first ever edition of this metal fest in 2012

Anurag Tagat

After a triumphant return to representing metal in the Indian music festival landscape in 2023, Bangalore Open Air is scaling back up to a two-day edition this week, taking place on February 9 and 10 at Bits Club, Hennur.

Across two days – an iteration they are mounting for the first time ever since they started in 2012 – Bangalore Open Air will feature international metal bands like German act Kreator, Swedish band In Flames, Polish band Decapitated, black metal act Watain (also from Sweden), Swiss/Dutch all-female band Burning Witches and Spain's Ankor.

The Indian artistes featured on the BOA lineup include favorites like Kryptos, Zygnema and Godless, plus Kolkata act Chronic Xorn, and local bands Moral Collapse and Speedtrip.

For Kreator's Mille Petrozza – the vocalist and guitarist in the band that's been around since 1982 – the festival is a chance to return to India. It's extra special since Kreator headlined the first-ever Bangalore Open Air edition back in 2012.

Talking about coming back for their second performance in the city, Petrozza says over a call, "To us, it's something that we always wanted to do, since we first played in the Bangalore Open Air. So of course, we are very happy that we got invited back and we can't wait, this is going to be great."

Make some noise Scenes from the 2023 edition of the fest, Burning Witches (above) and Kreator. MOHIT SHARMA, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Their set includes songs from their recent album *Hate Uber Alles*, but also older songs. Petrozza promises something for every kind of fan, both longtime and recent. He says, "We definitely will play a lot of the old stuff, a lot of new stuff – a nice mix of old and new songs. We want to give the people full treatment. Some people have been following us for a long time, so they probably are going to be happy to hear older songs. Then, there are people who have just discovered Kreator and they get some of the newer songs that we've written."

As someone who became a devoted practitioner of yoga over the last decade, the frontman says it helps him "stay sane" and also stay in shape physically and mentally. Describing himself as a student of yoga, Petrozza says it's part of what helps him play at breakneck speed and around the world. In a larger sense, he says he can keep churning out faster and more intense music over the years because he doesn't delve on it so much.

"It's really a lifestyle. I never think about the time that has passed. It's probably a reason why I'm here. I never really question it," he adds. The band will also have a film crew follow them around, as part of a larger documentary that's in the works about a year in the life of Kreator.

On the other end of the spectrum compared to Kreator are Burning Witches, a heavy metal band making their way to India for the first time. They will be adding some diversity and inclusivity to the often male-dominated space (along with Ankor, which is fronted by a female vocalist Jessie Williams and a female drummer, Eleni Nota). Guitarist Courtney Cox (not to be confused with the actor) recalls that she'd missed one opportunity to visit India in the past with her previous band, The Iron Maidens, but is looking forward to her first trip.

During our call, Cox mentions that she's thinking about the long flight from the US to Bengaluru, but is excited to get to India. "I just know the fans are going to be metal and intense. I can't wait to feel their energy on stage and have a really good time," she adds. Burning Witches, who released their fifth album in the span of six years in 2023 with *The Dark Tower*, will be playing more from this new album. "You're going to hear some heavy hitting ones from that album and mixed in the classics from previous albums," Cox adds.

To anyone who's never been to a Burning Witches show, Cox sums up the experience simply as "heavy metal." She adds with a laugh, "If you look in the dictionary and look up heavy metal, there's a photo of us. Heavy riffs, solos, harmonies and just quintessential metal energy."

In her travels with the band as well as in previous projects and as a solo artiste, Cox says it doesn't take much to break the ice when they're playing in a new country. "Just being able to go to all these different countries, we start to realise that metal is a religion, everywhere you go. We're all this metal family. So anywhere we go, it's just like we're being at home, basically," she says.

Bangalore Open Air takes place on February 9 and 10 at Bits Club, Hennur. Tickets on BookMyShow.com

CITYBEATS

Journeying within

FEBRUARY 11
Stokes and Stories, a mindfulness workshop, will be presented by Ketki Anand and Sunita Jose. The session will help participants embark on a journey of self-expression with mandalas. All material will be provided. Open to anyone aged 16 years and above.
At Atta Galatta, 4.30pm. Tickets priced at ₹400 are available on BookMyShow.

Turning tables

FEBRUARY 11
Magnolia Bakery India and Beruru (furniture and home decor brand) are collaborating to organise a Valentine's Day workshop, which will be led by Soraiya Rodrigues, a renowned tablescaping expert. The session will impart tips to set stylish tables. Tickets priced at ₹2,500, are available on Instamojo, BookMyShow and Paytm.
At Beruru, Indiranagar store, 4pm.

Satire on stage

FEBRUARY 10
The Urban Chaupaal theatre group will present their first Hindi comedy satire titled, *Udhedbun*. The play is written and directed by Amit Suthar and is a comical exploration of love, relationships and cultural clashes, and the lengths one woman is willing to go to secure her happily-ever-after.
At Jagriti, 3.30pm and 7.30pm. Tickets available on BookMyShow.

Music, language and lyrics

Ruth Dhanaraj

What is a music conference and what happens there? Well, going by the schedule at the upcoming Deccan Alternative Music Conference, the answer seems to be "quite a lot."

According to Prarthana Sen, co-founder of Neon Culture, a music business consultancy based out of Bengaluru, the first edition of this event combines the best of both a conference and musical showcase.

"Artistes need to know how to run themselves as businesses; usually professionals who want to work in the music industry have to hustle and work five jobs to make ends meet. We noticed this gap, so we wanted to make this a business-to-community conversation," says Prarthana.

The Deccan Alternative Music Conference (DAMC), will see people who are running their own companies as well as talent and management agencies, conduct workshops and hold master classes. "DAMC is aimed at artistes, students and mid-level career professionals in music. We want these conversations to start at the grassroot level and go from there," she says.

Prarthana and co-founder Vishruti Bindal believe that regular events such as these would open up conversations about the music scene, especially in the Deccan region. "It's called the Deccan Alternative Music Conference as our approach is hyperlocal. We plan to take this conference to a new city every year. The idea is that performances by artistes from the city will help attendees do a deep dive into the local music scene every year."

Straight from the heart Ghauley Bhai are a Bengaluru-based band which perform in Nepali. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

While DAMC invited applications from all artistes, an anonymous jury chose musicians, "who already had some music out there and were ready to take it to the next level."

Eight music acts have made it to the final list and participated in a series of virtual workshops. The finalists include Alva Kuuto, a Tulu band; Clan Bokka Phod whose USP is Dakhni rap; Ghauley Bhai, a group of Nepali musicians who met in Bengaluru; Kali, a Kannada rapper and Lakkshya, an instrumental band whose signature is contemporary music with elements of jazz and classical Carnatic music.

Participants attending the conference can also benefit from workshops on topics such as Rights Administration and Music Licensing, How the Money Flows, Artist Management 101 and the like.

The Bangalore Creative Circus (BCC) is the venue for the conference during the day, while Social Indiranagar and The Raft in Koramangala will be the venue for the showcase in the evening. Tickets for both are being sold separately.

Tickets to the Deccan Alternative Music Conference, to be held on February 9 and 10, are available on Skillbox. Details on workshop schedules are on deccanalt.in or @neonculture.in on Instagram.

Hands on A pattu weaver from Rajasthan, some of the wares of Project Tarasha. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Thinking through craft

Nidhi Adlakha

From Kashmir's diverse aari, sujani and tilla embroidery and Karnataka's Lambani to Gujarat's Ajrakh and Rajasthan's usta and pichwai paintings, over 25 craftpersons and artisans from across the country will present their art at Bengaluru this week.

This is courtesy a collaboration between Project Tarasha (the flagship social initiative by Titan Company Ltd) and Creative Dignity, both organisations formed during the pandemic to uplift rural artisans. "The partnership focusses on the holistic development of craft practitioners, covering aspects such as design mentoring, creative collaborations, market access, product innovation, and online enhancement," says Sridhar N E, chief sustainability officer, Titan, adding that the project also provides tailormade, need-based interventions to craft groups from across India.

Project Tarasha highlights artisans who work with hard material/non-textile crafts, and addresses their challenges of material, processes and markets that require a customised approach.

Meera Goradia, co-chair, Creative Dignity, explains that the artisans selected for this event are part of the collaboration between Creative Dignity and Project Tarasha for the Artisan Enterprise Lab (AEL) programme. "This includes training, capacity building and design mentorships for artisans. The artisans have undergone intensive training workshops of 5-11 days at a time for digital skills and marketing, business and design development, and value addition. Many of them have begun marketing successfully on social media platforms, and have seen increased buyers and outreach," says Meera, adding that 100% of sale proceeds go to the artisans.

At the event, look forward to artisans displaying glass work and kites from Uttar Pradesh, copper bell craft from Gujarat, West Bengal's sholapith, leather puppetry from Andhra Pradesh, handloom weaves from Rajasthan and banana fibre craft from Karnataka, among others.

Crafts aside, visitors can look forward to folk music performances by singers Shabnam Virmani accompanied by Shreeparna Mitra, Sunaad and the Vasu Dixit Collective. Chitrakatha, a visual performative art form from Pinguli near Sindhudurg in Maharashtra that depicts traditional narratives of the Mahabharata and Ramayana, with songs, paintings and puppets, will also be performed.

February 9 to 11 at Bengaluru International Centre, Domlur.

A.P. presents ₹2.86 lakh crore interim Budget for 2024-25

G.V.R. Subba Rao
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy on Wednesday presented an interim Budget of ₹2,86,389.27 crore for the financial year 2024-25.

Presenting the Budget in the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Rajendranath Reddy said that the revenue expenditure was estimated at ₹2,30,110.41 crore and capital expenditure at ₹30,530.18 crore.

Mr. Rajendranath Reddy said the initiatives implemented by the government through Navaratnalu, manifesto schemes, and strategic interventions were in close alignment with the intent of Sustainable Development Goals.

Stating that Andhra Pradesh ranked 14th in terms of GSDP growth of 11% in 2018-19, he said that the State secured 4th position in 2022-23 with a GSDP growth of 16.2%.

"Andhra Pradesh is categorised as top achiever in the Ease of Doing Business under the Business Reform Action Plan for 2020-21. Similarly, the State, which was ranked 12th with a CAGR of 8.3% in 2018-19, is now in 6th position with a CAGR of 13%," he said. The interim Budget required from April 1 to July 2024 will be ₹88,215 crore. The new government will present a full Budget after Assembly polls.

No discrimination in tax sharing with States, says Finance Minister

Nirmala Sitharaman terms Karnataka government's charges about inadequate tax devolutions mischievous; she says Centre has followed the Fifteenth Finance Commission's recommendations on tax sharing with States to 'the last word'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday sought to dismiss allegations that the Centre was not giving money to the States and termed the Karnataka government's charges about inadequate tax devolutions and discrimination in sharing Central taxes "patently wrong and mischievous".

Speaking in response to the discussion on the interim Budget in the Lok Sabha, Ms. Sitharaman referred to the big debate stirred by Karnataka government representatives in the capital, which is also being supported by the Kerala government. Noting that even Tamil Nadu had voiced concerns, the Minister assured the House that the government had followed the Fifteenth Finance Commission's recommendations on tax sharing with States to "the last word".

Dismissing allegations: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at a press conference in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

The Centre has, in fact, done more than what the Finance Commission asked it to do, including releasing an amount of ₹81,470 crore to States that had been lying unutilised since 1996, she asserted. Karnataka received ₹2,671 crore of that amount as well as ₹6,280 crore as a 50-year interest-free loan under the scheme to support capital expenditure by States.

Briefing media on Karnataka's charges earlier in Parliament, Ms. Sitharaman had pointed out that the State also received ₹6,196 crore of Central funding towards disaster relief so far during the award period governed by the 15th Finance Commission, which began in 2020-21 and concludes in 2025-26.

'Will be getting more'

"Despite the exceptional circumstances arising from the pandemic which depressed Central revenues, Karnataka will be getting substantially more as devolution during the first five years of the 15th FC period than in the 14th FC period," the Minister said. To "inflate its false claim of losses", the State government has "even included shortfalls for the next two financial years", Ms. Sitharaman said.

Amidst stand-off, KPSC Secretary goes on leave

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amidst the stand-off between the chairman and some members on the one hand and the Secretary of the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) on the other, Secretary K.S. Latha Kumari has gone on leave.

While Ms. Latha Kumari has gone on leave till February 17, Social Welfare Secretary Rakesh Kumar has been given concurrent charge. Over the last few days, it was speculated that Ms. Latha Kumari would be either asked to go on leave or toe the line of KPSC chairman Shivashankarappa Sahukar with whom she has disagreed over recruitment of the KPSC head of legal cell (HLC).

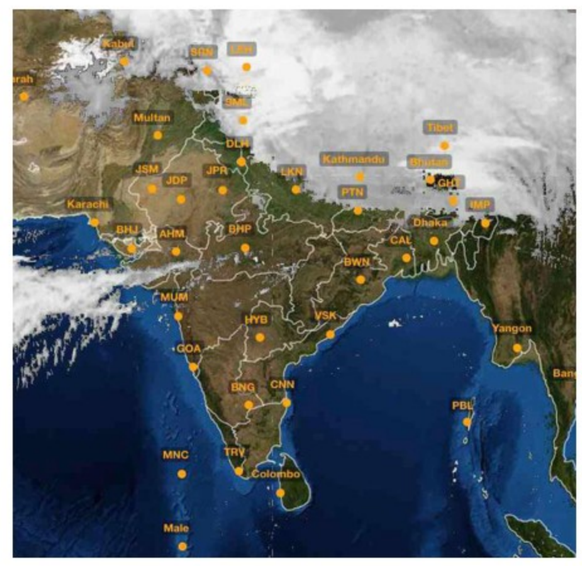
KPSC sources said that she had been asked to go on leave since efforts to convince her to clear the recruitment of HLC failed. "It is interesting now to see how the appointment of HLC will pan out. The original notification of November 2023, based on which the HLC was selected, has been cancelled now while a new notification, for which the last date to apply is February 17, has already received 10 applications. We are not sure if the cancelled recruitment process can be revived, and if so, will it attract court cases," commission sources said.

For the past few weeks, the chairman and five of the 10 members have been at loggerheads with the Secretary over the appointment of the HLC with all of them deciding to abstain from meetings till the HLC selected by a three-member committee headed by Mr. Sahukar is approved. However, the Secretary refused to accept the selection stating that the process has not been transparent. Meanwhile, a fresh process to hire the HLC is under way. Both sides have complained to the Chief Secretary airing their views.

The stand-off has led to a stalemate, forcing the other five members to take decisions, including that of publishing nine lists of successful candidates to fill 666 posts recently. On Tuesday, as the chairman and five members stayed away, the other members held a meeting chaired by senior-most member Ronald Anil Fernandes, and decided to go ahead with the notification of gazetted probationers examination to fill 384 posts besides other notifications based on proposals to fill Group A, B. and C posts in various departments.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Dense fog in the morning hours likely in isolated pockets over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal. Ground frost conditions likely in isolated pockets over Uttarakhand

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	27.2	18.6	Kozhikode	—	35.0	24.6
Ahmedabad	—	29.5	17.7	Kurnool	—	38.5	22.2
Aizawl	—	25.0	15.4	Lucknow	—	22.6	8.9
Allahabad	—	22.4	10.2	Madurai	—	35.2	22.2
Bengaluru	—	34.1	17.4	Mangaluru	—	33.6	22.3
Bhopal	—	26.8	13.4	Mumbai	—	33.5	21.1
Bhubaneswar	—	31.8	23.5	Mysuru	—	33.8	17.0
Chandigarh	—	19.1	7.4	New Delhi	—	20.7	6.9
Chennai	—	33.0	21.0	Patna	—	23.8	11.6
Coimbatore	—	34.8	19.8	Port Blair	—	30.5	22.0
Dehradun	—	21.0	6.0	Puducherry	—	32.0	21.8
Gangtok	—	12.0	4.5	Pune	—	35.5	17.9
Goa	—	33.0	23.0	Raipur	—	32.8	19.0
Guwahati	—	23.4	12.4	Ranchi	—	24.2	13.7
Hubballi	—	36.0	19.0	Shillong	—	16.6	7.4
Hyderabad	—	36.2	21.2	Shimla	—	10.5	2.0
Imphal	—	22.3	13.9	Srinagar	—	10.0	-2.0
Jaipur	—	21.4	12.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.2	22.7
Kochi	—	32.2	24.4	Tiruchi	—	33.5	21.0
Kohima	3	12.6	7.9	Vijayawada	—	33.6	21.6
Kolkata	—	25.7	19.0	Visakhapatnam	—	30.1	23.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	8	59	69	160	111	
Bengaluru	10	16	24	125	163	
Chennai	4	39	62	174	161	
Delhi	13	203	51	229	275	
Hyderabad	19	38	24	79	111	
Kolkata	14	61	23	126	120	
Lucknow	9	40	81	101	128	
Mumbai	—	267	64	140	134	
Pune	106	145	109	114	106	
Visakhapatnam	12	48	39	146	132	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 365 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Maihar, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 27

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Telangana govt. budget session starts today; likely to be stormy

M. Rajeev
HYDERABAD

The stage is all set for the budget session of the Telangana legislature on Thursday. The budget session, the first after the Congress government took over the reins in December last year, is likely to be stormy as it comes amid challenges and counter-challenges on large scale corruption in the execution of projects during the close to 10-year-tenure of the Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) government.

The session is likely to be a brief one as the government is reportedly considering introduction of a vote-on-account Budget rather than a full Budget in the absence of clarity on the Central devolutions.

Tentative schedule

"We are preparing for any eventuality," a senior Finance official said when asked whether it would be a full Budget or vote-on-account Budget.

Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka will present the Budget on February 10.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has dared the BRS for a thorough debate on the irrigation projects and offered to allow as much time to the main Opposition, provided the BRS president sits through the debate. "We are prepared to extend the session for a couple of days if the BRS is prepared to participate in the debate," he said at a recent press conference.

The Treasury Benches are expected to table a white paper on the status of irrigation projects under the previous BRS government during the session.

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned government of Karnataka undertaking)
CIN Number: U04010KA2002SGC030436

No. GESCOM/SEE (Procurement)/EE/AEE/54434-38 Date:06.02.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP PORTAL MODE ONLY)

Manufacture and supply of the following materials as per GESCOM Specifications:
PC-1335: 11KV 400Amps double break GOS
Short Term: PC-1334: 11KV 200Amps Single break Polymer Type Post Insulators GOS and **PC-1336 :** 11KV DOLO cutouts
Dates: Bid documents available at KPPP portal: on or after **08.02.2024,** Last Date: **23.02.2024 @17:30 Hrs.** Opening of Technical/Price bid: **27.02.2024/ 28.02.2024.**
Tender amount: **Highest Rs. 802.44 Lakhs and Lowest Rs. 103.66 Lakhs**
Bidder Qualifying Requirements: As per tender documents (IFB): For additional information Contact: Superintending Engineer El., Procurement, Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi-585102. Mobile: 9448499997. Web Site Address: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Procurement), GESCOM, Corporate Office, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/786/KSMC&A/2023-24

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered agencies for the following works.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD(In Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
1	South West-1	BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/4527/2023-24 Date: 07.02.2024	Rs. 34,47,114/- / Rs. 81,352/-	15.02.2024 upto 4:00 p.m.	17.02.2024 after 3:00 p.m.
Sd/- Executive Engineer(South West-1).					
Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & Quality Assurance), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
2	MIS	BWSSB/EMS/TE/MS1/AE/696/ 2023-24 Date: 07.02.2024 (5th Call)	Rs. 23,40,000/- / Rs. 50,000/-	15.02.2024 upto 3:00 p.m.	16.02.2024 at 4:00 p.m.
Sd/- Executive Engineer(MIS).					

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/RA/3469/2023-24

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan,
Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001.
Phone No. 080-22265383, website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-52/643/2023-24 Date : 07.02.2024

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-II & above (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work of Reconstruction of RCC Road Including Construction of RCC Side Drains and Box Culvert, Laying of Water Supply Pipeline from NH-150A to Thandya 2nd Phase Industrial Area via Thandavapura Village, Nanjangudu Taluk, Mysuru District.(2nd Call)
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **17.02.2024** upto **04:30 pm.**
Applicants may download bidding documents from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal, **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/2023-24

Sri. Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ಬೆವಿಕಂ
BESCOM
Sri. D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(A Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
Safety of precious life is our Priority
Be Cautious about Electricity... Always Observe Safety Measures
Do's
Always use ISI certified appliances, wires and cables.
Get your gadgets repaired by authorised electricians only.
Check your Electric gadgets regularly for safety.
Ensure that your installation is provided with suitable grounding / earthing.
Get wiring work done through a Government Licensed Electrical Contractor.
Always ensure that the plug socket is out of reach of children.
Use 3 pin plug sockets and ensure that the third point is earthed.
If you notice any of the above, Please inform your nearest BESCOM office.
Don'ts
Do not tie banners or publicity material to electricity poles
Do not use guy wires tied to a pole for drying clothes.
Do not operate electrical switches/equipments with wet hands
Do not cut trees/branches near the overhead electric lines.
Do not climb electric poles.
Do not energize fences.
Do not touch snapped electrical wires/uninsulated wires
Do not construct buildings close to electrical wires.
Do not try to remove/chop trees fallen on electrical lines.
Sri K.J. George, Hon'ble Minister for Energy, participated in a programme along with Sri. Siddaramaiah, Hon'ble Chief Minister.
Whatsapp for safety issues : 9483191212 / 9483191222
As is enshrined in our Constitution, to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.
Visit us at : https://bescom.karnataka.gov.in
BESCOM 24x7 HELPLINE 1912

Winning trust

JMM and its allies found a viable way out of the Hemant Soren arrest ordeal

By nominating Champai Soren to the position of Chief Minister and ensuring a convincing win in the trust vote, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and its allies, the Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal, did well to weather the storm after the resignation of Hemant Soren over corruption charges. The predominantly tribal populated Jharkhand remains one of just a few States that have not been wrested by the Bharatiya Janata Party ever since the beginning of what political scientists call the era of the BJP-dominated party system in northern India. It is to the JMM's leadership's credit that it sought to elevate a leader who played a major role in the State's formation (after its bifurcation from Bihar) rather than appointing another family member, even if this was a decision taken under duress, and avoiding the impression that it was the Shibu and Hemant Soren-led family that would rule by proxy. This, in a way, bucked the trend in most regional parties, where power tends to concentrate in the families of its most popular leaders, either due to the fact that this allows party finances to be controlled by those closest to the leadership or because such parties are unable to evolve into cadre-based, ideology-driven units.

By catapulting Champai Soren to the helm of governance, the JMM signalled a return to its past when it was more a movement and less a typical party. Yet, two issues should worry the party. His appointment was also made possible because of a family rift over the possible candidature of Kalpana Soren, Hemant Soren's wife. And, second, the unedifying sight of MLAs being transported to Congress-ruled Telangana suggests that the ruling alliance was not so sure of ideological leanings acting as a glue to keep its flock together – a phenomenon that has become sadly true of many politicians in India. Hemant Soren's resignation would also have been welcomed in normal circumstances where anyone in government should give up power if they face serious corruption charges as he did in a purported land scam. But the fact that the Union government has used its law enforcement agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate less as weapons against corruption and more as a tool to browbeat any opposition, gives cause for pause. Regardless of this, Mr. Soren's case must be thoroughly investigated and should not be subject to the vagaries of political outcomes such as the retention of power by the JMM and its allies. In a way, the developments should compel the JMM-led government to reorient its focus on governance in one of India's most mineral-rich, but materially poor, States, and that will be its best answer to the questions raised about it following the arrest.

Music without borders

The Grammys were a celebration of women singers, past and present

Time stood still twice at the 66th annual Grammy Awards on Sunday when iconic singer-songwriters Joni Mitchell and Tracy Chapman took the stage to tell stories one more time through music. While the 80-year-old Mitchell, who had suffered a life-threatening aneurysm some years ago, performed her 1968 song, 'Both Sides Now', Tracy Chapman, 59, accompanied by her guitar and Luke Combs, belted out her classic hit, 'Fast Car' – both numbers powerful markers of the human experience and still speaking to the times. As if on cue, Annie Lennox, who paid tribute to Sinead O'Connor by reprising her haunting song, 'Nothing Compares 2 U', shouted at the end of her performance: 'Artists for ceasefire. Peace in the world'. After that, two ongoing wars and other social crises appeared forgotten for the most part of the show, though the super indie group, boygenius, who won for 'best rock performance', advocated for a ceasefire through red pins on their attire. After years of being pulled up for not celebrating female, black, Hispanic artists enough, the Grammys made amends this time by honouring a host of young women musicians. 'Swifties' were duly acknowledged by helping Taylor Swift make history with her record-setting fourth album of the year award for 'Midnights', surpassing Frank Sinatra, Stevie Wonder and Paul Simon, who won the award three times.

Miley Cyrus ('Flowers'), Billie Eilish ('What Was I Made For?', a melancholic melody for Greta Gerwig's *Barbie*) and SZA all got their moment in the spotlight. India made a mark too with a belated nod coming in for one of the country's best-known fusion bands, Shakti, which bagged the Best Global Music Album for 'This Moment', a studio album they released after four decades. The band, formed in the 1970s to critical acclaim and fame, later regrouped and brought out an album in 2023 with founding members, guitarist John McLaughlin and tabla maestro Zakir Hussain, joining vocalist Shankar Mahadevan, percussionist V. Selvaganesh and violinist Ganesh Rajagopalan. Zakir Hussain won two more Grammys, one with flutist Rakesh Chaurasia, and two other performers, for their song 'Pashto' which won in the Best Global Music Performance category. In the past, the Grammys have honoured and celebrated the music of Pandit Ravi Shankar, Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, A. R. Rahman and others. But Indian artists of today, who play a mind-boggling array of instruments, from the sitar, sarod and veena to the flute, mridangam and violin, can now aspire to claim their rightful place on the global stage and be open to collaborations which have brought musicians such as Zakir Hussain accolades and recognition.

Downloading child pornography is an offence

R.K. Vij

is a former Indian Police Service officer

Recently, the Madras High Court, in *S. Harish vs Inspector of Police*, quashed the judicial proceedings and held that downloading child pornography was not an offence under Section 67B of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000. The High Court categorically said that watching child pornography *per se* was not an offence as the accused had merely downloaded it onto his electronic gadget and had watched it in private.

The High Court also referred to a case decided by the Kerala High Court where it had been held that watching pornography in private space was not an offence under Section 292 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). This case related to the quashing a criminal case registered against a youth in 2016 by the Aluva police as he had been watching pornographic material on his mobile phone on the roadside at night.

In this case, after investigation, the police had filed the final report and cognisance had been taken by the High Court under Section 14(1) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 and Section 67B of the IT Act.

Section 67B(b) of the IT Act says that 'whoever, - creates text or digital images, collects, seeks, browses, downloads, advertises, promotes, exchanges or distributes material in any electronic form depicting children in obscene or indecent or sexually explicit manner' shall be punished on first conviction with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years and with fine which may extend to ten lakh rupees....'

Reading into a sub-clause

It is undisputed that two files pertaining to child pornography were downloaded and available on the mobile phone of the accused. The forensic science report also corroborated the presence of the two files. These facts are sufficient to attract the application of Section 67B(b) of the IT Act, but the High Court held that in order to constitute an offence, the accused must have published, transmitted, created material depicting children in sexually explicit act or conduct.

The High Court did not reproduce Section 67B in its judgment for justification. Section 67B has five sub-clauses, from (a) to (e). While sub-clause (a) talks about publishing or transmitting material depicting children engaged in sexually explicit act or conduct, sub-clause (b) deals with acts including downloading of child pornography material. Sub-clause (c) talks about cultivating, enticing or inducing children to [an] online sexually explicit relationship. Sub-clause (d) talks about facilitating abuse of children online and sub-clause (e) talks about recording abuse/a sexually explicit act with children.

> There must be an appeal against a recent judgment of the Madras High Court in a case of the downloading of child pornography material

Thus, the High Court reached its judgment without analysing all of Section 67B, and reading into sub-clause (b), which clearly delineates the act of the accused.

The flaw in citing a precedent

The High Court referred to a precedent, without mentioning details, i.e., title or year, of that case, where the High Court of Kerala dealt with the scope of Section 292 of the IPC and held that watching an obscene photograph or obscene videos by a person by itself was not an offence. The ratio of this case does not apply to the cases of child pornography, particularly the one under consideration.

A case decided by the High Court of Kerala in September 2023 (*Aneesh vs State of Kerala*) did not pertain to child pornography. While watching adult pornography in privacy has been held as not to be an offence under Section 292 of the IPC (both by the High Court of Kerala and the Supreme Court of India), downloading sexually explicit material pertaining to children is clearly an offence under the IT Act. In none of the cases so far has the constitutionality of Section 67B(b) been challenged and its *vires* held unconstitutional.

The Madras High Court used its inherent powers under Section 482 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) to prevent misuse of the process of court and quashed the judicial proceedings. The Supreme Court has laid down certain guidelines in *State of Haryana vs Bhajan Lal* (1992) to exercise powers under Section 482 of the CrPC (or extraordinary powers under Article 226) including that such powers could be used where the allegations made in the first information report or the complaint, even if taken at face value and accepted in their entirety do not, *prima facie*, constitute an offence or make out a case against the accused. Therefore, under the given facts and circumstances of the case, the Madras High Court could not in its wisdom quash the judicial proceeding when an offence was clearly made out under Section 67B(b) of the IT Act. However, it is agreed that the police had wrongly applied Section 14 of the POCSO Act as there was no evidence pertaining to the use of any child or children for pornographic purposes by the accused himself. Also, Section 15 of the POCSO Act punishes storage or the possession of child pornographic material only if it is done with an intent to share or transmit, or display or distribute, or for commercial purpose.

Remove the inconsistency

It is important to mention here that Section 67 read with Sections 67A and 67B of the IT Act are a complete code and the given acts are exclusively punishable under this code. This section was amended in October 2009 and, *inter alia*, even seeking or downloading child pornography made a specific offence. The purpose of enacting special Acts such as the POCSO Act and making special provisions in the IT Act is to protect children from sexual exploitation and punish people involved in different forms of exploitation.

The National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, under an agreement with the American National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, regularly gets geo-tagged CyberTipline reports to prosecute those who upload the child sexual abuse materials (CSAM) from anywhere in India. The use of the term CSAM is preferred because the term pornography implies consent which a child is not capable of giving. Therefore, it will be better if the term 'child pornography' is replaced with the term 'CSAM' in Indian laws. Similarly, the POCSO Act may also be amended and mere possession of CSAM be made a separate offence to remove inconsistency between the provisions of the POCSO Act and the IT Act. Finally, the State government must appeal against this judgment of the Madras High Court. Otherwise, it will set a bad precedent for the State.

The views expressed are personal

Equity concerns in banning fossil fuel extraction

Anwar Sadat

is a Senior Assistant Professor in International Law at the Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi

The inadequate response from governments and corporations in dealing with the issue of climate change is leading to not only a dramatic rise in climate change litigation in many parts of the world but is also resulting in growing momentum that is in favour of phasing out of fossil fuel subsidies and the banning of the extraction of fossil fuel itself. Momentum is also growing in favour of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. There is a proposal in academic literature which sets out the case for a coal elimination treaty by 2030 with the aim of phasing out the mining and the burning of coal. The rationale behind this is linked to the Production Gap (Production Gap Report, or PGR 2023) that exists between the plans by fossil fuel producing countries to produce 110% more fossil fuels by 2030 and their incompatibility with the goal of the Paris Agreement 2015 to keep warming below 1.5° Celsius as compared to pre-industrial levels.

The element of phasing out fossil fuel emerged for the first time in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at COP26 in Glasgow, in 2021, which made a reference to phasing down unabated coal power and phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. In fact, there was a call by many to phase out coal and fossil fuel subsidies. COP28 in Dubai in 2023, in Dubai, also adopted a decision relating to the transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, so as to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 in keeping with the science. It appears logical that to achieve the long-term temperature goal set at Paris and avert climate disruption, fossil fuel production cannot continue unabated. The question that remains to be answered is how to align these proposals with the anchor sheet principles of the climate change regime – the Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) and Nationally determined contributions (NDC).

Equitable phasing out of fossil fuels

The UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement are aimed at the reduction of greenhouse gases and removal by sinks in conformity with the CBDR-RC. The latter, governed by the criteria of per capita emissions, historic emissions made by a developed country party and the financial and technological resources (which a developed country commands as compared to a developing country), faces serious challenges when applied in the context of fossil fuel extraction.

> India and other like-minded developing countries need to call out the hypocrisy of some of the developed countries

Those countries that are heavily dependent on revenues and employment in the fossil fuel sector are likely to experience serious difficulties in transitioning away from fossil fuel.

For instance, there are countries such as Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom which are less dependent on revenues from fossil fuel, as they have a more diversified economy (non-fossil fuel income to cope with transitional costs) together with higher per capita income, and thereby greater capacity to transition away from fossil fuels. In contrast, there are countries such as Azerbaijan, Congo, Iraq, Nigeria, Oman, and Timor Leste that are heavily dependent on fossil fuels for government revenue and with economies that are relatively less diversified, thereby giving them limited capacity to transit. These countries cannot be expected to take the lead in phasing out fossil fuel.

International law and fossil fuel

In the international legal system, a state is within its rights to use natural resources lying within its territory for its economic development. But this is accompanied by a caveat not to cause significant harm to another state when a natural resource is trans-boundary in nature. The prevention of harm to another is a due diligence obligation, and a state has to undertake all appropriate measures in light of the magnitude of the proposed project having trans-boundary consequences.

The obligation has been largely tested in international water course situations and the International Court of Justice (ICJ, 2010) in the Pulp Mills Case described conducting trans-boundary environmental impact assessment (EIA) as part of customary international law. This duty is linked to a bilateral situation and its application in the context of a global commons is so far unclear, which amounts to saying that a state cannot be expected to undertake EIA for extraction of fossil fuel for its effects on the global environment other than local. Scholars from the West are taking a legally ill-founded plea that states are required to conduct an EIA for their fossil fuel extraction to prevent global warming. They are also propagating the human rights consequences of fossil fuel extraction on the local population and indigenous people in the tribal areas of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha in violation of the UN Declaration envisaging free prior informed consent of the tribal people. The basis of the Paris Agreement is NDCs, which does not bind a state to prohibit fossil fuel extraction.

India's situation

Despite India's notable progress in renewable energy systems, fossil fuel continues to dominate India's power sector. Nearly 3.6 million people in 159 districts are rooted in the fossil fuel economy through direct or indirect jobs related to the coal mining and power sector. A country such as India, which is facing serious unemployment concerns, cannot afford to transit towards cleaner fuel without adequate transition support and creation of suitable economic opportunities and livelihoods for those affected. India's subsidies on kerosene oil have come under scrutiny in the West as it is found to be inconsistent with Article 2(1)(c) of the Paris Agreement and is also considered as inefficient subsidies.

In line with the CBDR-RC, India has given a clear hint of a differential time-frame at COP26 when it intervened and succeeded in toning down the language from "phasing out" to "phasing down" unabated coal. India must lean on its coalition building strategy with like-minded developing country parties in opposing the hypocrisy of developed country parties since most major fossil fuel producers plan to increase production (this includes Australia, Canada, and the U.S. (as per the PGR) while expecting developing countries to radically shift their economies, with limited support.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Uttarakhand takes the lead

The tabling of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill in the Uttarakhand Assembly is a clear sign of what the Bharatiya Janata Party plans to do after the dilution of Article 370 and the consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. These three issues are what define the BJP from the other mainstream political parties. Though contentious, the Bill is sure to be implemented in the hill State, providing an impetus to the BJP's prospects in terms of election results.

But, opposition to the UCC is bound to decrease the number of votes from the general public even if the Muslim vote share fades for the BJP.

Jai Prakash Gupta,
Ambala Cantonment, Haryana

It will be an uphill task to ensure the implementation of a uniform civil code in India. Though there seems to be political support for it, there will be hurdles. The minorities are being oppressed even as we come across narrow-minded political statements every single day.

Manas Agarwal,
New Delhi

Respect past contributions

We seem to be getting back to 'silly season' again with the Lok Sabha election approaching and the top leader of the land in 'attack mode' by misinterpreting and misquoting his favourite target — the Nehru-Gandhi family. Being the top leader, people are forced to listen to him and take note of it. If the speeches of Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi did not instil confidence in the people, India would not have got to the position it was in 2014, when the leader came to power. It is not that all development in India began from 2014. The leader has to acknowledge the efforts of his predecessors who have made India a great nation. One believes respect too to be a 'Hindutva value'.

S. Kamat,
Mysuru

Arrests and politics

Several non-BJP leaders have faced arrest under various laws and by agencies. The haste behind some arrests, amid a media spectacle, raises questions about the motive. Courts need to scrutinise such cases more closely, as many appear to be primarily designed to disgrace and harass the accused and break his/her spirit by leveraging legal processes as weapons.

Bureaucrats and law officers too must introspect on the implications for our democracy when there are clear political motives.

G.G. Menon,
Tripunithura, Kerala

Iconic eatery

The news report, on the Spirit of Mylapore Award being conferred on Rayar's Mess in Chennai (Chennai, February 7), made me nostalgic as this was a place I used to frequent with my colleagues in the 1970s. The cafe had its army of fans who made it a point to visit it at least once a week. The wonderful taste of eatables in this humble and simple eatery was attributed to the wood fire they were cooked on.

M.R. Anand,
Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh

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Road map for fiscal consolidation

C. Rangarajan

is former Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and a former Governor, Reserve Bank of India

D.K. Srivastav

is Chief Policy Advisor, EY India and formerly Director, Madras School of Economics

The interim Budget or 'vote on account' for 2024-25 was presented on February 1, 2024. In keeping with the best traditions, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that she was not proposing to make any changes in the tax rates either for direct taxes or indirect taxes. Nevertheless, a few things stand out in the Budget. First, there is a continued emphasis on increasing capital expenditures of the Union government and second, there is a continued emphasis on fiscal correction and consolidation.

Not overstretched

In some sense, the Budget is not overstretched. The buoyancy of tax revenue comes to 1.33, if the base is taken as Budget Estimates of the present year and using nominal GDP growth for 2023-24 as per the National Statistics Organisation's (NSO) first advance estimates. The buoyancy comes down to 1.09 if the base is taken as Revised Estimates. The nominal GDP growth for 2024-25 is conservatively estimated at 10.5%. This means an implicit price deflator-based inflation of 3.3% if we assume a 7% real growth. Thus, the revenue projections provide a buffer that can be used to increase expenditures or reduce deficit later. That will be known only when the regular Budget is presented later.

One important feature of the Budgets presented in recent years is an increase in capital expenditures of the Central government. In the context of COVID-19 and other global developments, perhaps it was felt that the investment climate could be improved only by the government raising its own investment. It could act as a catalyst for private investment. The interim Budget has maintained this trend and has provided for an increase of 11.1% in capital expenditures when a comparison is made with the 2023-24 Budget Estimates.

The growth rate of capital expenditure is higher at 16.9% when compared with the Revised Estimates of 2023-24. It is implied that capital expenditure growth is lower than what was budgeted in 2023-24.

In fact, as per the Revised Estimates, the growth in capital expenditure is 28.4% instead of the budgeted growth of 37.4%. This lower capital expenditure growth is associated with a real GDP growth of 7.3% in 2023-24. Thus, it may be possible for a 17% capital expenditure growth in 2024-25 to enable a real GDP growth of 7% provided private sector investment picks up and the momentum of capital expenditure growth of State governments is maintained as in the current year. This would be feasible as the government has extended the interest-free loan facility for the State governments. The lower fiscal deficit might also facilitate a lowering of interest rates later during the year. It is important to remember that the capital expenditures of the government are not identical with gross fixed capital formation. However, it contributes to increasing capital formation. It is worth noting that the capital expenditures of the Central government in 2024-25 as a proportion of GDP are budgeted to increase marginally from 3.2% in 2023-24 to 3.4% in 2024-25. In developing economies, growth is driven by investment. For the continued growth of the economy at 7%, we need an investment rate of 35%. This is on the assumption of an Increment Capital Output Ratio (ICOR) of 5.

As per NSO's first advance estimates for 2023-24, the gross fixed capital formation to GDP ratio at constant prices is 34.9%. If in 2024-25, government capital formation falls, correspondingly private sector investment may have to increase.

> We need to set a target fiscal deficit relative to GDP and the time horizon over which this target is achieved. The goal must be to get to a fiscal deficit of 3% of GDP

Fiscal deficit target

The fiscal deficit for 2024-25 is expected to go down to 5.1%, a decline of 0.7 percentage points from the previous year. This is in accord with what the Finance Minister had earlier stated. While this bold step in a Budget before the election is welcome, we need to have a good road map to achieve what our target is.

This has to be 3% of GDP for the Central government and not 4.5% of GDP. Together with State governments, the target fiscal deficit can be 6% of GDP. We need to understand the logic behind this number. It is linked to household savings in financial assets and a net inflow of resources from abroad. The household sector is the only surplus sector in the economy. The surplus of this sector needs to feed the public sector as well as the private corporate sector. If the household savings in financial assets were increasing, it may be possible to make some adjustments to the desired level of fiscal deficit.

However, recent numbers show household savings in financial assets going down. The committee that was appointed to look at the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003 wanted that the debt-GDP ratio of the Centre and States taken together should not exceed 60%. For the Centre, the target level was indicated at 40%. There is no clear logic for this number if the Centre's target fiscal deficit is kept at 3% of GDP.

The corresponding level of Centre's debt would be 30% of GDP with an underlying nominal growth of 11.1%. Simulations indicate that given the current consolidation path, if a 3% fiscal deficit is reached by 2028-29 and maintained at this level thereafter while sustaining a nominal GDP growth of 11.1%, a 40% debt-GDP ratio for the Centre would be reached by 2034-35. Any fiscal deficit of the Centre and States taken together substantially above 6% of GDP can only lead to inflation. We need to set a target fiscal deficit relative to GDP and the time horizon over which this target is achieved. The goal must be to get to a fiscal deficit of 3% of GDP each for the Centre and the States.

VCK: the uncompromising Dalit party

Despite its growth in stature, the party has to settle for a minor role in the alliance

STATE OF PLAY

Udhav Naig
udhav.naig@thehindu.co.in

Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), a political party born out of the Dalit Panthers Movement in Tamil Nadu, which forcefully articulated the rights of Dalits, is currently in its 25th year in electoral politics and is preparing to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in a few weeks as a part of Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc.

The party recently organised a public rally, which happened to be INDIA bloc's first major event in Tamil Nadu. It witnessed the participation of DMK president and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, CPI (M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI General Secretary D. Raja and other leaders of the alliance in the State along with an unprecedented crowd. The VCK has positioned itself as a party that consistently punches above its weight. For a party that rejected electoral politics for a decade until contesting Lok Sabha elections in 1999, the VCK has come a long way: it has two Members of Parliament and four Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The VCK has managed to become an ideological bulwark of secularism and social justice in Tamil Nadu against Hindutva political forces and has played a key role in shaping the political stance of the Opposition alliance despite being a smaller player in the alliance in recent times. Helped majorly by the charisma of Mr. Thirumavalavan, and the Scheduled Caste community's need for a party to fight for their rights, the party has weathered many electoral and political setbacks. Its second rung leaders contend that the VCK is the only Dalit party in the country to not compromise with the BJP despite, according to them, being offered an olive branch to join the Central government in their attempt to reach out.

The Dalit Panthers Movement in Tamil Nadu and its subsequent institutionalisation into a mainstream political party has not just helped raise awareness and instil confidence among Scheduled Castes, but it has also meant that the party has now access to relatively better resources and access to state machinery via its senior alliance partner.

However, the VCK has never contested alone and has not improved its vote share, which is a necessity in electoral politics today to command an edge during bargaining for more seat representation with bigger parties. Leaders in the party mention several reasons for the failure to mobilise its voters as a vote bank: lack of resources and inherent paradoxical political dilemma of whether the party should primarily be a representative of the Dalit community and risk being inscribed within the Dalit identity or function as a mainstream political party which considers Dalit issues as one of the main issues in society. The result of this political dilemma is that the party has neither gained significant support from non-Dalit communities nor has it created a solid vote bank by mobilising Dalit communities.

The flip side of this growth in stature in electoral politics has meant the party has had to sometimes tone down its criticism of how inadequate the response of mainstream political parties and State government have been, to issues of discrimination and violence faced by Dalits. Since 2021, when DMK came to power in the State whose alliance the party is a part of, the VCK has not, according to many Dalit activists, satisfactorily raised the issues of violence against Dalits with the State government.

In December 2022, human faeces were found in the drinking water overhead tank used by the Dalits in Vengaivayal in Pudukottai district. The VCK had organised several protests, but still, the State government has been unable to nab the culprits in Vengaivayal issue after more than a year. Mr. Thirumavalavan has criticised the police department for the delay. Sympathisers have often said the party ought to carve out an independent space and voice without worrying about whether it would affect their alliance prospects in the upcoming elections.

The criticism against the party is that they are unable to articulate the perspective of Dalits on various political issues and when they face instances of violence and discrimination due to the fear of being edged out of the alliance. This, in turn, has resulted in the loss of confidence among its own supporters.

If the party wants to move on to the next stage of its evolution, it should do well to resolve this political dilemma it finds itself in, which will enable it to play a much bigger role in Tamil Nadu politics.

Over 20,000 FCRA licences cancelled, most from T.N.

If cancellations are expressed as a share of FCRA licences given, then Uttar Pradesh tops the list

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani
Neetika Jha
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Last week, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered a case of alleged Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) violation against human rights activist Harsh Mander and his NGO Centre for Equity Studies (CES). FIRs were registered based on a complaint from the Union Home Ministry. The agency allegedly found that the NGO transferred some amount to certain individuals from the FCRA account, apart from salary/wages/remuneration, which is a violation of the Act.

The action against CES is the latest incident in a series of measures against civil society and NGOs. Last month, FCRA registrations of Delhi-based Centre for Policy Research (CPR) and World Vision India were cancelled. In 2023, the Home Ministry had recommended a CBI investigation into Oxfam India for allegedly violating FCRA provisions. CBI also conducted searches and registered a case against news portal *NewsClick* for violating FCRA in December 2023.

The government uses FCRA to regulate the foreign funds received by NGOs "to prevent any possible diversion for activities detrimental to national interest." Organisations have to compulsorily register under the Act if they wish to receive foreign funding. Over 20,000 FCRA licences have been cancelled till February 4.

Chart 1 shows the year-wise break-up of cancellations. It shows that cancellations have spiked in certain years – 2012, 2015, 2017, 2019. Especially in 2015, over 10,000 cancellations were recorded. In other years, cancellations rarely crossed into the double digits. It is important to note that not all cancellations were due to violations, as many were also done to remove multiple registrations for the same organisation.

Cancellation of licences is not the only way in which organisations are denied foreign money. Changes in the law meant that FCRA registration is not permanent and needs renewal once in five years. Data from Lok Sabha show that 783 renewal applications were denied between 2019 and 2021.

Chart 2 shows the State-wise number of active, expired and cancelled FCRA licences. Tamil Nadu leads the list with 2,580 FCRA licences of organisations registered in the State getting cancelled to date. Close to 1,576 licences expired in the State, also the highest among States. Notably, the State still has over 2,500 FCRA licences active, again the highest among States. Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Karnataka are other States with a high number of cancellations. If cancellations are expressed as a share of all FCRA licences given, then Uttar Pradesh tops the list, with over 50% cancellations followed by Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana and West Bengal with over 40% cancellations. A break-up of organisations with an active FCRA licence shows that most of them are engaged in educational and social service, while religious NGOs – most dominated by those registered as Christian organisations – also form a significant share, as shown in **table 3**.

While Tamil Nadu has the largest number of organisations with an active FCRA licence, they received the third highest amount (2,507 crore) of foreign contribution in this route in FY22 **(Chart 4)**. Organisations registered in Delhi received ₹5,809 crore in the period, the highest among all States/UTs, followed by Karnataka (3,140 crore). Organisations in Gujarat and Telangana have received over ₹1,000 crore.

Neetika Jha is a student at Asian College of Journalism

Denying foreign funding

The data for charts and tables were sourced from Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act portal maintained by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Rajya Sabha answers

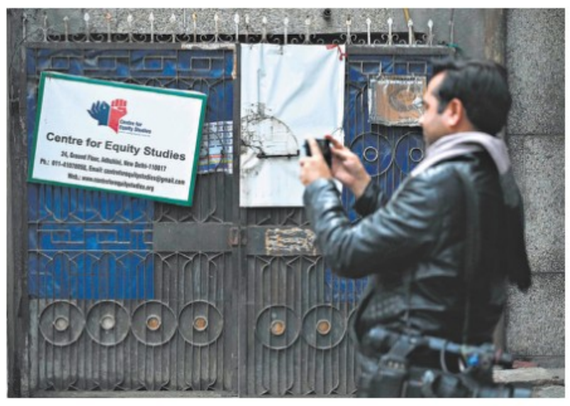


Chart 1: The chart shows the year-wise break-up of licence cancellations

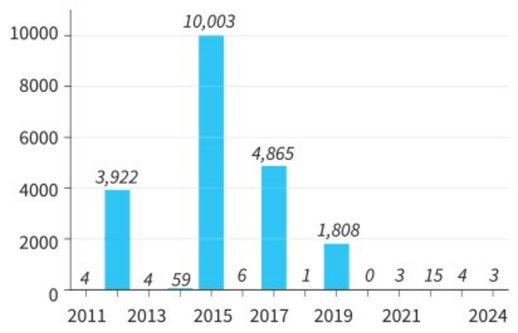


Chart 2: The chart shows the State-wise number of active, expired and cancelled FCRA licences till date

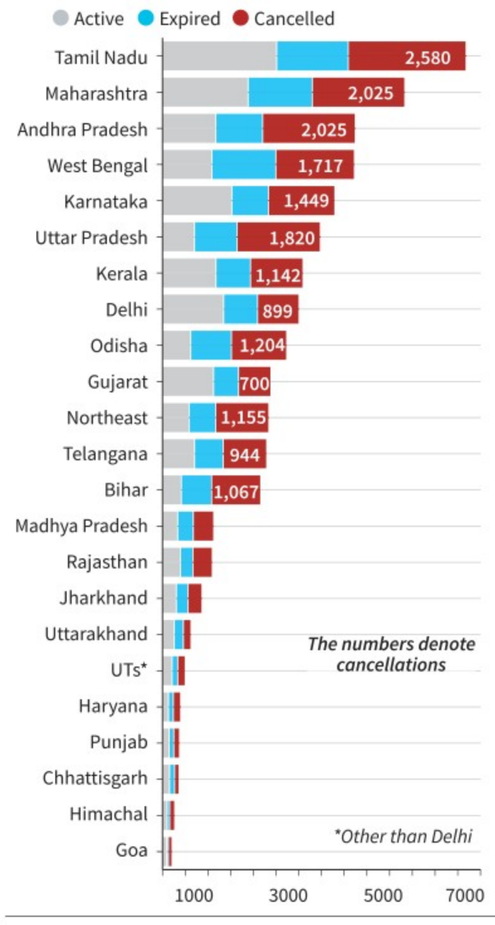
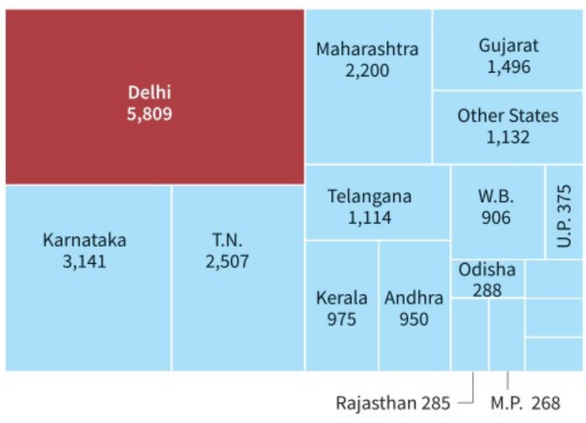


Table 3: The table shows the break-up of organisations with an active FCRA licence

State	Religious (non-christian)	Religious (Christian)	Educational	Social
T.N.	95	515	1,680	2,174
Maharashtra	65	213	1,295	1,489
Karnataka	83	448	1,020	1,215
Delhi	44	115	783	1,114
Kerala	28	619	603	856
Andhra	27	326	811	1,094
Gujarat	127	153	845	863
W.B	92	128	739	956
Telangana	20	149	465	628
U.P.	63	98	417	595

Chart 4: The chart shows State-wise foreign contribution received in FY 2021-22 (in ₹ crore)



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 8, 1974

New island homes for ex-servicemen

Madras, Feb. 7: Two Ex-Servicemen – one from Kerala and the other from Tamil Nadu – are eagerly looking forward to their new homes in the Nicobar Islands. They form part of a group of 50 former army personnel who are due to sail from Madras for the Nicobar Islands on February 9, as part of a scheme to resettle 300 former Jawans there this year. The second batch of 50 are leaving on February 23 and the remaining 200 by March this year.

According to present planning, about 1,500 families would be resettled on the islands during the fifth plan period.

Col. O.P. Kapur, Director of Self Employment, Union Ministry of Defence, told this reporter that 500 acres of land had already been reclaimed and the Administrator of the islands had constructed roads and provided basic amenities like water supply, medical and educational facilities. Col. Kapur said each family would be given 11 acres of land – five acres of flat land for paddy, five acres of hilly land for plantation and one acre for homestead. Each family would also be given a resettlement assistance in cash of Rs. 18,000 to cover transport charges, free rations for the first year, 75 per cent in the second year and 50 per cent in the third year. Other help provided included grant in cash and kind for household equipment, agricultural implements, livestock and the cost of construction of a one room tenement. The scheme was established in 1969 and 31 families had already been resettled in the islands.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 8, 1924

Lascar memorial

Calcutta, Feb.6: In opening the Lascar memorial this evening Lord Lytton paid a high tribute to the loyal and devoted service of lascars during the war. Bengal supplied complete crews for over 300 ships which sailed from those three ports during the war in addition to those which sailed from Calcutta and Chittagong. Not a single lascar refused to serve for fear of enemy action. The movement perpetuated the memory of 832 lascars for Bengal and Sylhet who laid their lives in the service of the empire. Of these 33 died while on a voyage to Archangel, the most northern part of Russia.

From Page One

Opposition is creating a 'North-South' divide: PM

Attacking the erstwhile governments of the Congress, Mr. Modi said the country had crossed over from 'fragile five' and 'policy paralysis' in the last 10 years and now it is among the top five economies in the world. "That is how the world talks about us today," he said.

Countering Opposition leader Mallikarjun Kharge's arguments that the Centre is denying jobs to the SC, ST and OBC youth by not filling vacancies in the government and PSUs, Mr. Modi said his government took steps to ensure education and employment for the marginalised people. He said abrogation of Article 370 ensured that these communities in Jammu and Kashmir get the same rights as the rest of the country. "*Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas* is not just a slogan, it is Modi's guarantee," Mr. Modi said, adding that the number of PSUs in the country increased from 234 in 2014 to 254 today, and most of them were giving record returns drawing the attention of investors.

The Prime Minister expressed confidence that the NDA would retain power with 400 seats and listed the agenda for the next five years. "Modi 3.0 will leave no stone unturned to strengthen the foundations of developed India," he said.

Karnataka leaders hit out at Centre in Delhi

The issue of devolution of funds had become controversial after Mr Shivakumar's brother and Lok Sabha member, D.K. Suresh, had recently commented that "South Indian states may be forced to demand a separate nation if the Centre didn't provide them adequate funds".

Stating that Karnataka ranks second in Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection and is the biggest contributor to the country's revenue, Mr. Shivakumar said, "We are asking for our rights, we are asking for our share".

Mr Siddaramaiah demanded that the Centre set right the losses to the tune of ₹1.87 lakh crore since 2017 allegedly incurred by Karnataka under the 15th Finance Commission.

He claimed that the Centre has been providing ₹2.80 lakh crore to Uttar Pradesh. Similarly, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan are also given grants, even though these States have not taken any step to control population growth.

"We have no objection in allocating more funds to the northern States. But our request is not to commit injustice to our State", the CM said.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said top leaders from Karnataka protested at the Jantar Mantar to safeguard the interests of the whole State.

All States neglected by Modi regime: Pinarayi

Addressing presspersons at Kerala House here, Mr. Vijayan said he was hopeful that many of the leaders of the Opposition's INDIA bloc would participate in the protests. He said that if every party came together, the BJP would be defeated.

Kerala Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal said the protest was not a "political drama". "States are facing arbitrary reduction from their revenue dues. It is not just an issue of southern States," Mr. Balagopal said, adding that the State government would protest against this decrease in allocations legally and politically.

Mr. Vijayan said Ministers, legislators, and parliamentarians from the State would actively participate in the protest. "We have had to resort to such an unprecedented struggle as it is essential for Kerala's survival and advancement. This agitation is intended to safeguard the Constitutional rights of all States, not merely Kerala's. The aim of this struggle is not to triumph over anyone, but to secure what we rightfully deserve instead of surrendering. We believe that the entire country will stand with Kerala in support," he said.

Sharad Pawar's faction gets a longer name

Congratulating his ally Ajit Pawar, Mr. Fadnavis said the EC decision "was along expected lines" as had happened with the Samajwadi Party in 2017 and the Shiv Sena in 2022.

'Stabbed democracy in the back'

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut – an ally of Sharad Pawar's group in the MVA coalition – alleged that the Election Commission had "stabbed democracy in the back" through its decision to recognise Ajit Pawar's faction as the real NCP.

Speaking in New Delhi, Mr. Raut said both the Shiv Sena and the NCP had been weakened because these were the only two parties that protected Marathi '*asmita* (identity)' and raised their voices against injustice being done to Maharashtra. He dared both Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Ajit Pawar to form their own respective parties and face the people before the elections.

Meanwhile, Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar said that his decision on the NCP split, which is expected next week, would be solely based on merit and would have no relation with the EC's decision.

Uttarakhand Assembly passes Uniform Civil Code

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami terms it a 'historic moment'; Congress MLAs say they are not against the Bill, but that its provisions need to be examined in detail so that flaws can be removed

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Uttarakhand Assembly passed the Uniform Civil Code on Wednesday, despite the Opposition's demand that the Bill be handed over to the House's select committee first.

Terming it a "historic moment", Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said the Assembly had become the first legislature in Independent India to pass a Bill that imposes common rules for all communities – except Scheduled Tribes – on marriage, divorce, inheritances, and live-in relationships.

In his final address before Speaker Ritu Khanduri Bhushan called for a voice vote on the UCC Bill, Mr. Dhami said that the legislation would end the injustice faced by women for centuries. Mentioning the Shah Bano and Saira Bano cases, the Chief Minister said that anti-social elements wanted to keep different communities divided for political benefits.

Referencing B.R. Ambedkar, Mr. Dhami claimed that certain clauses mentioned in the Constitution were misused from time to time by certain anti-social, anti-national people. "Certain mistakes were done in the Indian Constitution which now need to be corrected," he said, listing other countries such as Saudi Arabia, Nepal, Japan, the United States, Canada, Bangladesh and Indonesia that have implemented a uniform civil code.

BJP supporters greet Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami in Dehradun after the passage of the Uniform Civil Code Bill. PTI

'Not opposing'

Congress MLAs said they were not opposing the UCC Bill, but claimed that its provisions need to be examined in detail so that any flaws can be removed before it is passed. Tilak Raj Behar, the Congress MLA from Kichcha, said that Article 44 of the Constitution, which is the basis of the Bill, refers to the UCC in the context of the whole country and not just one State.

Pointing out a contradiction in the Bill, Adesh Singh Chauhan, the Congress MLA from Jaspur, said the Bill leaves the tribal population out of its ambit, even while claiming that it would apply to the whole of the State.

The UCC is based on a draft submitted by a committee formed by the Uttarakhand government under the chairmanship of retired Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai. The Bill was one of the BJP's poll promises during the 2022 Assembly election campaign in Uttarakhand.

Asaduddin Owaisi, president of All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen, said the Bill was nothing but a Hindu Code made applicable for all. "Firstly, Hindu undivided family has not been touched. Why? If you want a uniform law for succession and inheritance, why are Hindus kept out of it? Can a law be uniform if it doesn't apply to the majority of your State?" he asked.

Nothing more than political propaganda, says AIMPLB

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has dismissed the Bill as "mere eyewash and nothing more than political propaganda".

"The Bill is inappropriate, unnecessary, and against diversity. Its real target is only Muslims as even the Scheduled Tribes have been exempted. It has been rushed to gain political advantage. This legislation, rushed through in a hurried manner, deals only with three aspects – the sphere of marriage and divorce in a cursory manner; and thereafter deals with succession laws; and finally live-in relationships, which undoubtedly will impinge on moral values of all the religions," S.Q.R. Ilyas, the spokesperson of the Board, said.

One contentious aspect highlighted by the spokesperson was the equalisation of inheritance rights between genders, which conflicts with the principles of Islamic law, clearly categorised by the Koran.

Uttarakhand code challenges right to 'intimate associations'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) passed in Uttarakhand, which requires consenting adults who intend to enter a live-in relationship to submit a "joint statement" to that effect before a "Registrar", dares individuals' freedom to form "intimate associations" without state monitoring or regulation.

Section 381 of the Uttarakhand's common civil code empowers the Registrar to examine the statement submitted by prospective live-in partners, conduct an "enquiry" to check if the relationship between the couple is not a "prohibited" one and even summon them. A 30-day time is given for the State authority to enter the statement in a register and issue the couple a "registration certificate" which clears them to enter into a live-in relationship. The code is careful to note that the exercise is only "for the purposes of record". A similar exercise is undertaken if the partner or both want to "terminate" the live-in relationship.

Previous judgment

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, in his minority opinion while heading a Constitution Bench in *Supriyo versus Union of India* (same-sex marriage case), refers to how State should not interfere with the freedom of consenting adults to form legitimate "intimate associations".

The Chief Justice said the right to intimate associations came within the ambit of free speech and expression enshrined as a fundamental right under Article 19(c) of the Constitution. The CJI observed that the freedom of speech and expression was not limited to expressive words and included other forms of expression like that of their sexual identity, choice of partner, and the expression of sexual desire to a consenting party.

Freedom to choose

The Chief Justice noted that courts have traditionally not permitted the state to interfere in certain kinds of personal relationships.

The CJI had cautioned how the state could directly or indirectly infringe on the right of a person to enjoy the society of one's partner. This could be done directly through a law prohibiting such relationships or by "refusing sufficient space to exercise that freedom".

Live-in relationships are not prohibited in law. In fact, the Supreme Court, in *S. Khushboo v. Kanniammal*, had held that live-in relationships come within the ambit of right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 states that a live-in relationship fell within the ambit of a domestic relationship.

Decision to fence border with Myanmar evokes mixed reactions

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's announcement that the Centre would fence the India-Myanmar border to facilitate better surveillance and pave a patrol track has evoked mixed reactions from the rulers of five northeastern States.

While the Chief Ministers of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Manipur have welcomed the decision, their Mizoram and Nagaland counterparts are against putting up a barbed wire fence along the 1,643-km border between the two countries. Of these States, only Assam does not share its border with Myanmar.

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh was the first to demand barbed wire fencing along the border with Myanmar, which he felt would go a long way in preventing Myanmar nationals from entering his State illegally.

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu said the fencing project would "check the movement of unscrupulous elements" between his State and Myanmar.

Based primarily in Manipur and Nagaland, the Isak-Muivah faction of the NSCN has opposed the fencing plan saying it would cut off Nagas living on either side of the border. Similarly, the Myanmar-based Khaplang-Yung Aung faction is also against the fencing.

Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma and his Nagaland counterpart, Neiphiu Rio, are also against erecting a fence along the India-Myanmar border. "The plan is unacceptable," Mr. Lalduhoma said.

Puja in the southern cellar of Gyanvapi mosque to continue

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The court posted the matter for Feb. 12 as the arguments could not conclude due to paucity of time

The puja in the southern cellar of the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi will continue as of now as the Allahabad High Court has adjourned for next week the hearing on the plea filed by the mosque committee challenging the January 31 order of the Varanasi district court permitting Hindus to offer prayers there.

During the hearing that took place before Justice Rohit Ranjan Agarwal on Tuesday and Wednesday, senior advocate S.F.A. Naqvi, counsel for the Anjum Intezamia Mosque Committee, which runs the Gyanvapi mosque, maintained that Muslims always had the possession of the mosque and no puja had ever been offered there.

Advocate Harishankar Jain and Vishnu Jain, appearing for the Hindu side, claimed that it was in 1993 when the puja was stopped in this particular cellar on the orders of the then Samajwadi Party-led State government. Prior to it, Somnath Vyas and his family were doing regular pujas inside the cellar, they said.

Justice Agarwal orally remarked that neither the Vyas family nor the mosque committee could *prima facie* prove that they were in possession of the southern cellar of the mosque. He posted the matter for February 12.

The Varanasi district court on on Wednesday allowed prayers to be offered inside the '*Vyas Ka Tehkhana*' (sealed basement) area of the Gyanvapi mosque complex. The district administration broke the barricades outside the basement within hours of the court order, and puja was performed soon after.

'BJP and BJD are operating in partnership in Odisha'

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday targeted the Naveen Patnaik government in Odisha, saying that it was operating in "partnership" with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Addressing a rally at Rourkela during the second day of his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in the State, Mr. Gandhi said Mr. Patnaik had always supported the saffron party and that the Congress was fighting a lone battle against the "Biju Janata Dal [BJD]-BJP partnership" in Odisha.

As part of its strategy, the State Congress unit has tried to position itself as the principal Opposition in Odisha while projecting the BJP as an undeclared partner of the ruling BJD.

To drive its point, it had recently organised a mock wedding between the BJD and the BJP.

Since 2017, the Congress has slipped to a distant third in local body, Assembly and Lok Sabha elections.

Rahul Gandhi waves at supporters during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Rourkela on Wednesday. PTI

Mr. Gandhi also raised the issue of labour migration indicating that it reflected the failure of governance in the State. "While 30 lakh people have migrated to other States in search of jobs, the State's resources are being allowed to be plundered by 30 *crorepati* industrialists from outside Odisha," said the Congress leader.

On the issue of unemployment, Mr. Gandhi said the country was facing its worst-ever unemployment crisis in the past 40 years and Odisha was a leading State with high unemployment. He alleged that tribal people, Dalit, and backward people in the State were subjected to oppression and torture.

During a press meet, senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh also targeted the "unholy" nexus between the BJD and the BJP.

Mr. Gandhi is expected to complete his Odisha leg of Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra on Thursday when he would enter Chhattisgarh through Jharsuguda district of Odisha.

Kuki-Zo delegation meets Home Ministry officials

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Issues raised include scrapping of FMR, Kangla Fort incident and power outages in hill districts

A nine-member delegation of Kuki-Zo groups met a team of officials from the Union Home Ministry on Wednesday, where they raised the scrapping of the Free Movement Regime (FMR) with Myanmar, and the January 24 Kangla Fort incident in Imphal when Arambai Tenggol, a radical Meitei group, administered oath to elected representatives to "protect the integrity of Manipur".

The meeting that was led by A.K Mishra, Adviser, Northeast, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Intelligence Bureau officials, lasted three hours.

The tribal delegation also raised the issue of continued power outages in the hill districts of Churachandpur and Pherzawl.

The officials of the Ministry assured the delegation that their issues would be conveyed to the higher authorities.

The tribal bodies have been seeking an appointment with Union Home Minister Amit Shah but no meeting has been scheduled yet. A delegate who attended the meeting said that the demand for a separate administration for the Kuki-Zo people still exists and that they would continue to press for it.

The meeting comes days after Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh met Mr. Shah in Delhi on February 3.

On Tuesday, Mr. Shah said that the government had decided to construct a fence along the 1,643-km border with Myanmar, effectively ending the FMR.

Under the FMR, every member of the hill tribes, who is either a citizen of India or a citizen of Myanmar, residing within 16 km of either side of the border, can cross the border on the production of a border pass, usually valid for a year, and can stay up to two weeks per visit.

India and Myanmar share an unfenced border and people on either side, including the Kuki-Zo people, have familial and ethnic ties that prompted the arrangement in the 1970s.

The Free Movement Regime was last revised in 2016.

Continued violence

Mr. Singh has on several occasions in the past attributed the ongoing ethnic violence in the State to the unregulated movement of people from across the border.

Manipur has been affected by ethnic violence between the tribal Kuki-Zo people and the Meitei community since May 2023.

PM's address did not touch upon key issues: Opposition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mallikarjun Kharge

In spite of spending a decade in power, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is still going on about the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) regime, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, reacting to Mr. Modi's reply in the Rajya Sabha on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address. Other parties too pointed out that the Prime Minister's speech did not touch upon any relevant issues.

Mr. Kharge, in a post on X, also listed out the "falsehoods" in the speech on the UPA years.

Unemployment rate in the UPA years was at 2.2% but under the BJP regime, it has hit the highest in 45 years, Mr. Kharge said.

In the UPA's decade, Mr. Kharge said, the average GDP growth rate was 8.13% but in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) years, it was only 5.6%. "We brought 14 crore people out of poverty in 10 years. By truncating our speeches, you are spreading confusion and lies," he added.

"It is heartbreaking that the gap between our exports and imports has increased three times in the last 10 years and despite knowing this fact, the government does not accept it as a problem and does not do anything about it," he said.

Mr. Kharge said that Mr. Modi's speech in both Houses was centred around criticism of the Congress. " Even today he did not talk about inflation, employment or economic situation," he said.

Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien called Mr. Modi's speech a "long *Mann Ki Baat*". "His government has converted Parliament into a deep, dark chamber. No guarantees about employment, price rise, Manipur. Hollow words about federalism from a man who has blood on his hands for butchering federalism," Mr. O'Brien said in a post on X.

CPI MP Binoy Viswam, said the speech was replete with propaganda. "He was playing to the gallery with an eye on elections," he said.

Modi govt. is all talk and no action, says Shashi Tharoor

He accuses Centre of playing a game of smoke and mirrors during a discussion in the Lok Sabha on the interim Budget; BJP MP hits back, says 'Ram Rajya' has been ushered in India under Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leading the Opposition charge in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday when the House took up discussion on the interim Budget, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor asked the Narendra Modi government "*kiska saath aur kiska vikas*" when poor, women, youth, and farmers were among the "worst-performing groups" economically.

He accused the government of playing a game of "smoke and mirrors" and claimed that it was "all talk and no action".

Separately, opening the discussion on the Finance Bill, Congress leader Manish Tewari raised the issue of fiscal deficit to the tune of ₹17 lakh crore-₹18 lakh crore every year since 2021. "If the government is borrowing ₹17 lakh crore to ₹18 lakh crore every year, the access of the private sector to market finance, therefore, gets restricted. That is why your investment to GDP ratio is restricted to 29.02%," Mr. Tewari said.

He said that in 2014, the total debt of the government was a little above ₹55 lakh crore but in 10 years, the debt had trebled to over ₹168 lakh crore.

Hitting back: Congress MP Shashi Tharoor speaking in the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session of Parliament on Wednesday. ANI

In a sharp retort to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's remarks describing GDP as governance, development and performance, Mr. Tharoor said that G stands "for governmental intrusion and tax terrorism under the current regime", D for "demographic betrayal", and P for "poverty continuing".

"This actual 'GDP' also jettisons the trinity of 'demography, democracy and diversity' that the government claims to be serving. The demographic dividend is on the cusp of becoming a demographic disaster with the unemployment crisis, K-shaped growth, and the ever-widening schism between the rich and poor," he said.

Mr. Tharoor claimed democracy is suffering through the government's "arrogant contempt" for institutions and cited the suspension of 146 MPs in the Winter Session.

Hitting back, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey accused the Congress of trying to create a "North-South divide" in the country and asserted that "Ram Rajya" has been ushered in India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "We are poor, our people go there to work. The entire country knows that more than 80% of the mines are in Jharkhand, Odisha, Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh... Did we say we are rich? Did we say South India should not be developed?" he asked.

Union Minister Smriti Irani, who represents Amethi, said for 48 years her constituency had a Congress MP but there was no development. "Only when Mr. Modi came to power, 10 lakh Jan Dhan bank accounts were opened," she said.

NCP MP Supriya Sule said the majority of the wealth in the country was in the hands of top 1% of the population. If the government's claims of reducing poverty were true. the why was it not showing the numbers, she asked.

Lok Sabha clears Finance Bill

NEW DELHI
The Lok Sabha on Wednesday cleared the Finance Bill, 2024 after Union Minister Pankaj Chaudhary addressed issues raised during the debate and moved it for passage. Congress leader Manickam Tagore termed the debate "another low in Parliament" and said he had "never seen a Finance Bill without" the Finance Minister's reply.

INBRIEF

Budget Session extended by a day, White Paper to be tabled

The Budget Session will be extended by a day and will sit on Saturday, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla informed the House on Wednesday. Earlier, the session was slated to end on February 9. Mr. Birla said Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi informed him of one day of extra sitting because of urgent government business. Though he did not specify the urgent business, the Centre is set to table a White Paper on economy that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced on February 1 while presenting the interim Budget. She had said it would bring out the state of the economy before and after 2014.

Former SC judge Khanwilkar likely to be the new Lokpal

Former Supreme Court judge A.M. Khanwilkar is likely to be appointed the next Lokpal of India after a high-level committee comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, and Leader of the single largest Opposition party, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury of the Congress, met on Wednesday to discuss the shortlisted names. A separate meeting was held to fill up a vacancy in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) which was attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Mr. Modi and Mr. Chowdhury. Sources said A.S. Rajeev, Managing Director of Bank of Maharashtra, has been selected, while Mr. Chowdhury submitted a dissent note. Another meeting to fill up an upcoming vacancy in the Election Commission was deferred.

Will remain with NDA: Nitish after meeting PM

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Following his first meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi since he rejoined the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar vowed to stick with his latest alliance.

"Now, there is no need to go here and there. Now, I will remain here," he told presspersons in Delhi after his half-hour meeting with the Prime Minister and then with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J.P. Nadda.

The Janata Dal(U) leader had joined hands with the BJP again on January 28 after severing ties with the *Mahagatbandhan* (grand alliance) which was then in power in the State.

The Rashtriya Janata Dal, the Congress, and the Left parties are part of the grand alliance.

He then took oath as the Chief Minister for the ninth time, along with two Deputy CMs from the BJP and six Ministers.

Nitish Kumar

On February 12, the new NDA government will seek a vote of confidence in the State Assembly.

On the question of seat-sharing arrangements for the upcoming Lok Sabha poll, Mr. Kumar said, "These things will be discussed later."

Of the 40 Lok Sabha seats in Bihar, the BJP and the JD(U) had each contested 17 in the 2019 election, leaving six seats for their other ally, the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas). The BJP won all 17 seats, while the JD(U) won 16 seats.

This time round, both parties will find it hard to spare seats as their other allies – the Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) led by former Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi and the Upendra Kushwaha-led Rashtriya Lok Janata Dal – will also have to be given some seats.

Mr. Kumar's agenda for his meet with the top leadership was likely to have included his demand for a special package to Bihar; the upcoming Rajya Sabha election scheduled to be held on February 27, and the six seats becoming vacant from the State; and the floor test.

Dhankhar rejects Kharge's request to restore expunged parts of speech

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday objected to Rajya Sabha Chairman Jadgeep Dhankhar's decision to expunge significant portions of his speech during the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address.

In a late evening ruling, Mr. Dhankhar declined Mr. Kharge's request.

Mr. Kharge said that truncating his address created a perception that he supported the government's claim of winning more than 400 seats.

Raising the issue during the Zero Hour, Mr. Kharge said two pages from his February 2 speech were removed, leading to distortion of intent. "I had raised certain points... they have been removed from the record," he said, and emphasised that he had not taken anybody's name nor violated any rules.

Mr. Dhankhar declined Mr. Kharge's request arguing that the Leader of the Opposition concluded his address nearly 50 minutes after making the said remarks and he had "sufficient time to revisit his thoughts". "The perceptional impact of any observation made in the House cannot be a premise for taking a different view as per Rules," he said.

BJP hits back as Opposition parties raise issue of 'North-South divide'

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

On a day Karnataka Congress leaders held a protest in New Delhi against what they termed unfair devolution of tax money to the southern State, the BJP worked hard to puncture the "North versus South" comparison mounted by the Opposition.

The party inducted new entrants from Tamil Nadu, and held press meets with State leaders from Karnataka and Kerala.

In the recent Assembly elections, the BJP swept the Hindi-speaking States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh, while the Congress won Telangana. After the results were announced, Congress leaders put out statements pointing to this divide.

During the ongoing Budget session, Karnataka Congress leader D.K. Suresh protested against low levels of tax devolution to southern States, going on to even say that it may persuade southern States to secede from India.

Counter measures: BJP leader Tejasvi Surya addresses a press conference at the party headquarters in Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

On Wednesday, the BJP appeared to hit back. A number of leaders from Tamil Nadu, including 15 former MLAs and one former MP, joined the BJP in New Delhi at noon, amid cries of "*Bharat Mata ki Jai*". Most of these leaders were from the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), a former BJP ally, and their entry into the party took place in the presence of Union Ministers Rajeev Chandrasekhar and L. Murugan and State BJP president K. Annamalai.

Impact of new entries

With their arrival in the party's fold, party feels its acceptability will be increased in Tamil Nadu, where it has had limited success.

Meanwhile, BJP MPs from Karnataka addressed a press meet at the party headquarters in New Delhi, lashing out at the Congress government over its claim that Karnataka was not receiving funds from the Central pool proportionate to its contribution.

Tejasvi Surya, BJP MP from Bangalore South, alleged that the protest by the Karnataka Congress was an "alibi" for the State government, which was finding that it could not fulfil unrealistic promises made during the Assembly election.

Mr. Surya said the Congress had promised 10 kg free rice to the poor before the election but realised after coming to power that the State could not procure enough rice, and began blaming the Centre.

He added that the total tax devolution to the State during the 2004-2014 rule of the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) was ₹81,795 crore while it jumped by 250% to ₹2,85,452 crore during the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government. The grant-in aids during the corresponding periods were ₹60,779 crore and ₹2,08,832 crore, respectively, he said.

Union Minister V. Muraleedharan and BJP Kerala in-charge Prakash Javadekar took on Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan over his plans to protest in New Delhi on Thursday, again over the question of insufficient Central funds to the State. The statement said that it was the financial profligacy demonstrated by both the Left Democratic Front and United Democratic Fund governments in Kerala, and not the Centre, that had left the State in a bad financial condition.

TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Sl.No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No	Total
1	SE/TRANSMISSION-II	T-2301	1
2	CE/P&C/Chennai	P&C-1089	1

For details of Works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: **www.tantransco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/738/Tender/2024

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
WBSETCL
Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474 • web: www.wbsetcl.in
NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/CompositePkg–C6(1)-2nd call/23-24/30 Date: 08.02.2024
E-Tender is invited for the following works:- **PROJECT-1 -** Construction of 132 kV terminal arrangement at proposed Madarihat 132 kV TSS, Construction of 132 kV S/C (2 Phase) transmission line on D/C tower from Birpara 132 kV sub-station to proposed Madarihat 132 kV TSS **(RL ≈ 18.50 KM S/C–OH Line and 0.65 KM S/C–UG Cable)**, Construction of 1 no. 132 kV Line Bay at Birpara 132 kV sub-station for proposed Madarihat TSS. **Completion period-9 months from the date of LOA.** Bid documents can be downloaded from **08.02.2024, 11:00 A.M.** and bids shall be submitted up to **04:00 P.M., 19.02.2024.** Visit the following websites:- **https://www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in** for details.
ICA- T3161(3)/2024

कार्यालय नगरपरिषद नीमकाथाना (राज0)
क्रमांकः न0प0नीम0 / 2023–24 / 8847 दिनांकः– 02.02.2024
ई निविदा सूचना क्रमांक 49 से 57/2023–24
इच्छुक पंजीकृत फर्म / ठेकेदारों / व्यक्तियों को सूचित किया जाता है, कि न0प0 द्वारा वर्ष 2024–25 में आवश्यक सेवायें ली जानें / विभिन्न कार्यो हेतु निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई–प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रकिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा फार्म ऑनलाईन वेबसाईट **http:/eproc.rajasthan.gov.in/** से डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड **https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/** पर डाउनलोड किये जा सकते है। है। उक्त कार्य की NIB code DLB2324A8398 यूबीएन DLB2324WSOB30080, DLB2324WSOB30081, DLB2324WSOB30083, DLB2324WSOB30084, DLB2324WSOB30085, DLB2324WSOB30087, DLB2324WSOB30088, DLB2324WSOB30089, DLB2324WSOB30090 हैं।
राज.संवाद / सी / 23 / 12685 आयुक्त, नगरपरिषद नीमकाथाना

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
Andhra Pradesh Township and Infrastructure Development Corporation, Visakhapatnam Circle
E-TENDER CUM REVERSE NOTICE
NIT No.02/DCTO/APTIDCO/VSP/2023-24, Dt.02.02.2024
1. Providing Approach Road with CC from Main Road to Satyanarayanapuram TIDCO Housing Colony in Anakapalli including culverts (including 2 years defect liability period) under Lump sum Contract (% Percentage Tender) cum Reverse Tendering with an Estimated Contract Value (ECV) of **Rs.2,03,97,474.04.**
2. Bid Document Downloading start date and time: **08-02-2024** at **11:00 Hrs.**
3. Bid Submission Downloading end date and time: **23-02-2024** at **11:00 Hrs.**

The details can be seen in website **http://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** The Deputy Chief Technical Officer, Visakhapatnam reserves to the right to accept / reject / cancel / postpone the tender without assigning any reasons thereof. Contact Nos. **+91 9849906412, +91 9951947770.**
Sd/- Deputy Chief Technical Officer
DIPR 2684PP/CL, Dt: 07-02-2024 **APTIDCO, Visakhapatnam Circle**

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division, Bangalore-560064.
No: BBMP/EE/YNK.D/E-PMT/11/2023-24 Dated: 07-02-2024
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover system) (Short term-Tender Notification)
(Through e-Procurement Portal
GoK website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)
The Executive Engineer Yelahanka Division invites tenders on behalf of the commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below **as per Standard tender document-KW-01, KW-02, KW-03 & KW-04.**

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Estimate Cost (in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1.	Completion of balance work in stamp vendor building at NES circle in ward No. 01	30.00	60000/-
2.	Construction of balance works to Samudaya bhavana building at Yelahanka 4th Phase in ward No. 03	70.00	140000/-
3.	Construction of Connecting drain and Improvements to road at Venkatala lake view layout in ward No. 01	50.00	100000/-
4.	Improvements to pathway at attur lake in ward No. 03	50.00	100000/-
5.	Construction of YOGA platform at basavalingappa park in ward No. 04	100.00	200000/-
6.	Drilling of borewells & Providing pipe line and supply of drinking water to public in Harohalli, Nagenahalli, Kenchanahalli, Doddabettahalli, Chikkabettahalli and Ananthpura village areas in ward No 01 and Ward No. 03 of Yelahanka Division.	300.00	450000/-

Calendar of events: (1) Date of Pre bid meeting at the office Executive Engineer (Yelahanka Division) on 13-02-2024 at 16.00 hrs. (2) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before 16.00 hours on 19-02-2024 and the opening of tenders will be as per the KPP portal guidelines. (3) Date of Opening of Technical bids on 20-02-2024 after 16:00 hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division

INBRIEF

Court extends ED remand of Hemant Soren for five days

A special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court on Wednesday extended the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) remand of former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren in alleged land scam case for five more days. The ED on Wednesday produced Mr. Soren before the court and sought seven days' remand. However, special court judge Dinesh Rai granted only five days' remand after hearing the arguments from both sides. The ED had arrested Mr. Soren on January 31 after questioning him for over seven hours. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leader then went to the Raj Bhavan and resigned from the State's top post.

Over 2,000 suffer from food poisoning at event in Nanded

Over 2,000 people suffered from food poisoning after consuming food during a religious gathering held at a village in Maharashtra's Nanded district. The event took place on Tuesday, attracting locals from Sawargaon, Postwadi, Risangaon, and Maski villages, who consumed food. Sources said people started complaining of vomiting, headache, and loose motion in the early hours of Wednesday. Initially, 150 affected individuals were admitted to the sub-district hospital at Loha, and later, an additional 850 patients sought treatment at various health facilities. No fatalities occurred and all admitted patients are in stable condition, a senior official said.

HC reserves order on bail plea of *Newsclick*'s HR chief

NewsClick's Human Resources Department chief Amit Chakravarty on Wednesday urged the Delhi High Court to grant him bail in a case lodged against the news portal over allegations that it received money to spread "pro-China propaganda." The High Court reserved its order on the bail petition by Mr. Chakravarty, who turned an approver in the case last month, after the police said it has no objections if the relief is granted to him. Mr. Chakravarty's counsel said that he has been granted pardon in the case by the trial court and was also cooperating in the investigation.

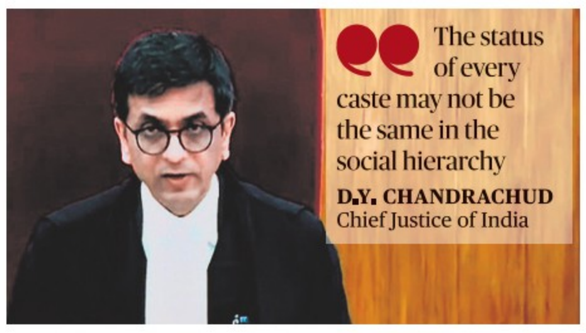
Arunachal centre rewilds 60 bear cubs in over two decades

India's only rehabilitation facility for the Asiatic bear has rewilded 60 bear cubs since its inception in 2001. Situated at the Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh's Pakke-Kessang district, the Centre for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation (CBRC) is a joint venture of the State's Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Department and the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI). Of the total 60, four were rehabilitated from 2022 to 2023, the centre's head Panjit Basumatary said. "A fourth cub died during rehabilitation during this period," he said. Apart from bear cubs, the CBRC has also been rescuing other wildlife species from different parts of the State. It recorded 23 rescue cases in 2023.

Can't treat SCs as homogenous group, observes CJI-led Bench

The status of every caste may not be same in social hierarchy, says CJI; Centre says it is 'committed' to reservation policy; T.N. says the policy should evolve with the times or would get 'fossilised'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI



A seven-judge Constitution Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, on Tuesday observed that Scheduled Castes cannot be treated as a "homogenous group" for granting reservation as some may have advanced in society while other continue to remain "particularly underprivileged".

Meanwhile, the Centre assured the court it was "committed" to the reservation policy. The Tamil Nadu government, in its turn, said the reservation policy should evolve with the times or would get "fossilised".

The Constitution Bench is examining the question whether individual States could identify and subclassify backward classes within the Scheduled Caste category in order to give them more preference in reservation.

The court said the diverse groups, clubbed together in the Presidential list under Article 341 of the Constitution as "Scheduled Castes", cannot be treated alike.

"What we have in the Presidential list is various castes who have suffered humiliation and dehumanisation put together... *Sapera* [snake charmer], *Bazigar* [acrobat], *Batwal* [watchman]... all with different occupations... The heterogeneity is clear from the Presidential list itself," senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for a petitioner, highlighted.

The Chief Justice agreed they were heterogeneous in terms of their pre-existing occupations, social status, and social indicators of backwardness or development. Over the decades, some of them had advanced while others continued to remain "particularly underprivileged", Chief Justice Chandrachud noted.

Social indicators

The Chief Justice said social indicators like infant mortality, maternal mortality, and fertility rates would also broadly show whether there had been progress.

"The status of every caste may not be the same in the social hierarchy," the CJI noted.

The debate revealed that the Bench was exploring a diametrically opposite view from that held in a 2004 Constitution Bench judgment in the *E.V. Chinnaiah* case.

In this verdict, 20 years ago, a five-judge Bench had held that Scheduled Castes were a "homogenous group" and sub-classification would be a violation of the right to equality.

Duty of States

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, acknowledged it was the duty of the State to remove barriers for the uplift of the backward classes. Mr. Mehta said it was for a State to identify and recommend a backward group. The Parliament enacts the legislation, including declaring the group in the Scheduled Caste category. The State concerned has to implement the reservation, he explained.

Weakest of the week

Senior advocate Shekhar Naphade, for Tamil Nadu, said it was within the prerogative of a State government to identify and subclassify groups within the Scheduled Caste category in order to aid the "weakest of the weak".

"It has been the consistent policy of the Government of Tamil Nadu to ensure the upliftment of the lowest-rung sections of the society," Mr. Naphade, assisted by advocates Purnima Krishna and M.F. Philip, submitted in court.

The State was referring to the Tamil Nadu Arunthathiyars (Special Reservation) Act of 2009.

The Act had been brought into force to provide preferential reservation for the Arunthathiyar community, a historically oppressed class within Tamil Nadu, to get them on a par with other Scheduled Castes.

Satellite-based toll collection may roll out before LS polls

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Nitin Gadkari

The government plans to implement satellite-based toll collection on highways before the Model Code of Conduct for the Lok Sabha election kicks in, Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari told the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

"We are trying to implement satellite-based toll system very soon, perhaps before the Code of Conduct for the Lok Sabha election," Mr. Gadkari said.

The technology, which has been under the government's consideration for the past three years, will allow barrier-free movement of vehicles and they will will not be required to stop for toll payments, the Minister said.

Will replace FASTags

He explained that the photo of the registration plate of the vehicle will be captured and the toll amount will be debited based on the actual length of the highway traversed by the vehicle.

This will replace the radio frequency identification-based FASTag system that was rolled out in 2016 and made mandatory from January 2021.

A total of 8.13 crore FASTags have been issued and a penetration of 98% has been achieved, according to the Minister.

While the government is in a rush to implement the new toll collection system before the election, an official of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said on condition of anonymity that the concept for the technology being used was not yet finalised and was still in various stages of development.

An official of the National Highways Authority of India, which will be implementing the technology, said it has been tested in Delhi and Gurugram and a trial will soon be conducted in Bengaluru too. This will involve every vehicle registering for the Global Navigation Satellite System of toll collection to be equipped with an on-board unit (OBU) that will be linked to a constellation of satellites. The OBU will also be linked with a wallet from which the toll amount will be deducted.

DJB bribes partially passed on to AAP as election funds, says ED

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after searching the premises of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's personal assistant and others, the Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday alleged that part of the bribe paid to award a Delhi Jal Board (DJB) contract to an ineligible firm was passed on to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as "election funds".

On Tuesday, the agency had searched the premises of Mr. Kejriwal's personal assistant Bibhav Kumar, AAP treasurer and Rajya Sabha MP N.D. Gupta, and former DJB member Shalabh Kumar. Some locations in Varanasi and Chandigarh were also searched. The development came days after the arrest of former DJB chief engineer Jagdish Kumar Arora and Anil Kumar Aggarwal.

The AAP dismissed the allegations and said it would take legal action against the ED for defamation. "We condemn any kind of wrongdoing done by DJB officials or its contractors, if proven true. We also condemn the ED's blatantly false allegation that AAP or its leaders have anything to do with this case. Not a single penny or piece of evidence has been recovered from the AAP leaders who were raided yesterday by ED," the party said in a statement.

The ED probe is based on an FIR registered by the CBI on complaints of corruption within the DJB with allegations that Mr. Arora had awarded a contract worth ₹38 crore to NKG Infrastructure Ltd. even though it did not meet the technical eligibility criteria.

Kejriwal summoned by court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rouse Avenue court here on Wednesday issued a summons to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on a petition filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which has alleged that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief was not complying with the probe agency's repeated notices in the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy scam.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Divya Malhotra took cognisance of the ED's complaint and asked the Delhi Chief Minister to appear before the court on February 17.

CDS urges industry to work on counter-space capabilities

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

General Anil Chauhan

Calling upon industry to work on counter-space capabilities as a deterrent for safeguarding India's space assets, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan emphasised that the government is encouraging all the stakeholders, including start-ups, for the development of a dependable space ecosystem within the country.

"We probably had one start-up in 2014 which has grown to 204 start-ups in the space sector with 54 additions in 2023 itself. In 2023, we as a nation invested $123 million in the sector, bringing the total funding to $380.25 million," Gen. Chauhan said on Wednesday, addressing the three-day seminar and exhibition DEFSAT-2024, organised jointly by the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies and Satcom Industry Association-India (SIA-India).

Space economy

Underscoring that the Indian space economy is currently estimated to be around $8.4 billion, Gen. Chauhan said that the indigenous space economy is expected to grow to $44 billion by 2033.

"The government initiatives like seed fund scheme, 0% GST regime, sharing of testing facilities, technology transfer have provided the rightful support to the private industry. This framework along with alignment of demands and funding support provide the right environment for the private sector to grow."

Mentioning the government's major initiatives in the space domain towards strengthening the capabilities of the armed forces, the CDS referred to the 75 space-related challenges as part of Mission DefSpace-2022 under the iDEX initiative.

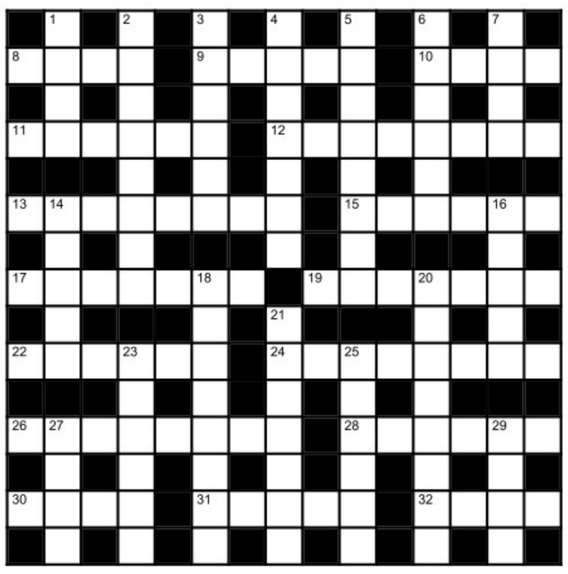
"Under this initiative, a total of five contracts have been signed and an additional four contracts are at various stages of documentation. In similar timelines, a feasibility study of 12 Make-I (Make In India) challenges is also being progressed," Gen. Chauhan added.

TH CROSSWORD + 14092

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Males follow Twitter's movie (1-3)
9 Outstanding due (5)
10 Greek god rose awkwardly (4)
11 Pitroda gets nothing with South African snack (6)
12 Excitedly dating... prancing around old prince and taking as one's own (8)
13 Satanic preparation of fine item of food (8)
15 A religious symbol that appears at the top of the clue list in a puzzle like this (6)
17 For example, King's doctor manages ranch (7)
19 Law includes Union Territory in Punjab, for example (7)
22 Contraption that will produce electricity from Monday, perhaps (6)
24 Remove teaspoon from mashed banana split for national of a Balkan country (8)
26 Body of water in the northern hemisphere disturbed with ease (5,3)
28 Visitors' speculate about temperature (6)
30 Wrongly capture after loss of headgear? Correct! (4)
31 Different to return with that lady (5)
32 Vehicle part that is pretty reliable part (4)

Down

1 In absence of mentor, composed commentary for non-governmental federation (1,1,1,1)
2 One residing in damaged mansion gets loss of sleep (8)
3 Therefore, African country gets native of another African country (6)
4 Okapi ran haphazardly carrying fish (7)
5 Uninformed giant is wrong about new gold (8)
6 I, a dog? (6)
7 Show bottom satellite (4)
14 After four, Roy transported material of animal origin (5)
16 Indian literary aphorism from crooked tsar touring university (5)
18 Robs cows wrongly, producing weapon (8)
20 Brown gentlemen's lines that touch circles (8)
21 What one may lend to a revolutionary giving otalgia? (7)
23 The man composed a song of praise (6)
25 Garbo dances with model actor (6)
27 Hurry! Drop Sten on road! Difficult? (4)
29 Rent revolving throne after His Excellency departs (4)

SUDOKU

				5			8	3
		7			2	9		
	8		1			4		
	1				6			7
	5		8	9	7		3	
7			3				9	
		2			3		5	
		6	2			3		
3	9			7				

No.SS6062 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	M		K		S		E		S		I		T	
L	A	M	A			U	N	D	E	R	S	C	O	R	E
	D		S		M		I		I		E		O	
F	A	T	H	O	M			T	A	L	L	B	O	Y	S
	G		M		I				A		A			
P	A	K	I	S	T	A	N		N	I	G	H	T	S
	S		R				O		K				A	
A	C	A	I			F	A	T	W	A		S	E	X	T
	A					A		U				T		I	
T	R	Y	O	U	T			P	L	A	C	A	R	D	S
			L		I				V		L		R	
U	N	H	I	N	G	E	D		E	C	L	A	I	R	
	E		V		U		R		R		I		V	
D	A	R	E	D	E	V	I	L	S		O	V	E	N	
	R		S		S		P		E		N		R	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	4	5	2	1	8	3	6	7
2	3	8	4	7	6	5	1	9
1	6	7	5	9	3	8	4	2
8	7	6	3	2	1	9	5	4
4	5	9	6	8	7	2	3	1
3	1	2	9	5	4	7	8	6
7	9	3	1	4	5	6	2	8
6	8	4	7	3	2	1	9	5
5	2	1	8	6	9	4	7	3

FAITH

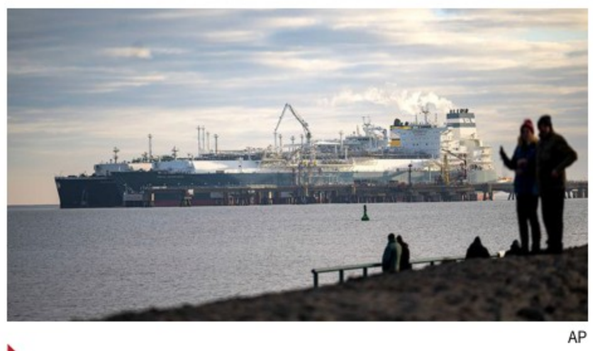
Rama's time management

Time management is a critical factor in all our lives and citing lack of time to accomplish various tasks is a common refrain. One should take inspiration from Lord Rama, who was a master at accomplishing various tasks on time. Why is He hailed as Kalatmaka Parameswara Ram? It is because He is the soul of time and He did not permit time to impose limitations on Him, said Swami Mitrananada in a discourse.

Action without dharma is of no consequence and Rama, the quintessential upholder of values, ensured He carried out various tasks with required intensity and within the necessary timeframe. Just as how the son of Kausalya carried out each action required of Him from the moment He manifested on earth, we too should march in His footsteps in our daily life, with wisdom, purpose and a sense of direction as shown by Rama. When He carried out the tasks, Rama also spread joy and happiness around Him: be it helping Viswamitra conduct yaga or the manner in which he effortlessly wielded the powerful bow at Sita's swayamwara. He was quick to identify good people and forge friendships with them, as he did with Guha. He exhibited the highest principle of dharma by asking Ravana to either surrender or return the next day to battle, when the Lankan king was unarmed.

DUBAI

Yemen's Houthi rebels launch new attacks on two ships in Red Sea



AP

Yemen's Houthi rebels launched six missiles toward two merchant ships on Tuesday, reportedly causing light damage to one of the vessels, the U.S. military said. The Iran-backed rebels, who control much of Yemen, have been harassing shipping in a campaign they say is in solidarity with Palestinians in the Israel-Hamas war. AFP

BEIRUT

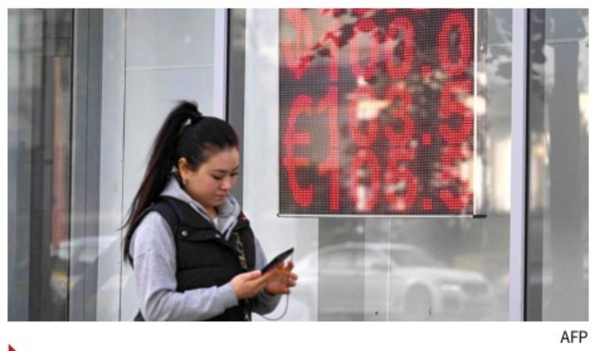
Six civilians among 10 dead in Israel strikes on Syria: war monitor

REUTERS

Six civilians were among 10 people killed in Israeli air strikes on the Syrian city of Homs early on Wednesday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Three students and a woman were among the dead while Two Hezbollah fighters were also among the casualties, a source to the Iran-backed Lebanese militant group said. AFP

MOSCOW

Russia admits to encountering 'problems' with China payments



AFP

The Kremlin on Wednesday acknowledged that Russian companies faced problems with Chinese banks after a major Chinese lender had blocked payment settlements with Russian firms. Beijing has become Moscow's crucial economic partner since the West hit Russia with sanctions since the start of Ukraine war. AFP

TAIPEI

Taiwan halts tourist groups to China after change to flight path

AFP

Taiwan ordered on Wednesday travel agencies to stop organising group tours to China following Beijing's adjustment of an aviation route that drew ire on the self-ruled island. It cited Beijing's "unilateral" decision to adjust the M503 route through the Taiwan Strait which "would impact aviation safety". AFP

Israel PM rejects Hamas truce terms, vows to fight until 'absolute victory'

Benjamin Netanyahu's comments come shortly after meeting the visiting U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken; he says surrendering to Hamas' delusional demands will not lead to freeing the captives, it will just invite another massacre

Associated Press
TEL AVIV

Israel Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on February 7 rejected Hamas' terms for a ceasefire and hostage-release agreement, calling them "delusional," a position that complicates efforts to strike a deal between the sides. Mr. Netanyahu vowed to press ahead with Israel's war against Hamas until achieving "absolute victory."

Mr. Netanyahu made the comments shortly after meeting the visiting U.S. Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, who has been traveling the region in hopes of securing a cease-fire agreement.

Grim reminder: A woman looks at a placard with photos of Israelis, killed in Hamas's attack of October 7, in Jerusalem. GETTY IMAGES

"Surrendering to Hamas' delusional demands that we heard now not only won't lead to freeing the captives, it will just invite another massacre," Mr. Netanyahu said in a nationally televised evening news conference.

"We are on the way to an absolute victory," Mr. Netanyahu said, adding that the operation would last months, not years. "There is no other solution." He ruled out any arrangement that leaves Hamas in full or partial control of Gaza.

Hamas laid out a detailed, three-phase plan to unfold over 4 1/2 months, responding to a proposal drawn up by the United States, Israel, Qatar and Egypt. The plan stipulates that all hostages would be released in exchange for hundreds of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel, including senior militants, and an end to the war.

Saudi wants Palestinian state before Israel ties

Agence France-Presse
RIYADH

Saudi Arabia has told Washington it will not establish ties with Israel until an independent Palestinian state "is recognised", the Gulf kingdom's Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

Israeli "aggression" in Gaza must also stop and all Israeli forces must withdraw from the besieged territory, the statement said.

Despite post-pandemic growth, Maldives at high risk of debt distress, warns IMF

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Without significant policy changes, the overall fiscal deficits and public debt are projected to stay elevated, IMF said

Despite strong post-pandemic growth, the Maldives remains at high risk of debt distress, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned.

"Without significant policy changes, the overall fiscal deficits and public debt are projected to stay elevated, and the Maldives remains at high risk of external and overall debt distress," the IMF said, calling for "urgent policy adjustment". The assessment echoed the World Bank's earlier assessment, of the fiscal strain facing the Indian Ocean archipelago.

Acknowledging the challenge, President Mohamed Muizzu recently told parliament that his government would adopt reform policy to improve the country's finances and bring debt and fiscal conditions to sustainable standards.

Preliminary findings

IMF staff issued the statement on Wednesday, as part of their "preliminary findings" from their mission to the Maldives.

As tourist arrivals are expected to rise further, the island nation's economy is projected to grow at 5.2% in 2024, the IMF said. Further, the expansion of the Velana airport terminal and likely increase in hotel accommodation capacities is projected to boost growth potential, it said.

Chinese aid

During his visit to China in January this year, Mr. Muizzu sought Beijing's assistance in the second phase of the airport's expansion.

On the other hand, China has "agreed" to discuss a possible deferment of the debt the Maldives owes the Asian giant, Mr. Muizzu announced on his return.

China is the Maldives's largest bilateral creditor, and the island owes about $1.4 billion to Beijing. The World Bank has estimated that the Maldives's debt to GDP-ratio will remain over 115% this year.

Haley loses to 'none of these candidates' option in Nevada

Associated Press
LAS VEGAS

Nikki Haley was swamped in Nevada's symbolic Republican presidential primary as GOP voters resoundingly picked the "none of these candidates" option on the ballot in a repudiation of the former UN Ambassador who is the last remaining major rival to front-runner Donald Trump.

Mr. Trump did not compete in Tuesday's primary, which does not award any delegates needed to win the GOP nomination.

The former President is instead focused on caucuses that will be held on Thursday and will help him move closer to becoming the Republican standard-bearer.

Meaningless results

That leaves the results on Tuesday as technically meaningless in the Republican race. But they still amount to an embarrassment for Ms. Haley, who has sought to position herself as a candidate who can genuinely compete against Mr. Trump. Instead, she became the first presidential candidate from either party to lose a race to "none of these candidates" since that option was introduced in Nevada in 1975.

Nikki Haley

There was also a Democratic primary on Tuesday that President Joe Biden easily won against author Marianne Williamson and a handful of less-known challengers. Rep. Dean Phillips of Minnesota was not on the ballot.

Conflict in Myanmar is worrying India and Bangladesh: Dhaka

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

So far 388 people have entered Bangladesh and the country has given them shelter, says Foreign Minister

The escalating conflict between Myanmar's military and ethnic armed organisations (EAO) is a matter of concern for both India and Bangladesh as both countries share borders with Myanmar, the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Hasan Mahmud said in New Delhi on Wednesday. Speaking to the media after meeting National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, the visiting Minister said the two sides were working on ensuring stability and regional security, and assured that new connectivity projects were likely to take off between India and Bangladesh in the coming months.

"We discussed the situation in Myanmar because the situation is getting worse day by day. So far, until today – this morning – 388 people, mostly border security guards of Myanmar, and Army personnel, have entered Bangladesh. We have given them shelter. We are in consultation with them so that they take them back," Mr. Mahmud said.

Mr. Mahmud is on his first visit abroad after taking charge as the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh on January 11.

"Our Ambassador in Myanmar has met with the Foreign Minister of Myanmar and they have agreed to take them back. How they will take them back – by ship or by air – that is a question of discussion," Mr. Mahmud said. Myanmar border guards and military personnel who are in Bangladesh featured in the talks with Mr. Doval, he said.

EU and Hungary at odds once again over country's new 'sovereignty' law

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, launched an 'infringement procedure' into Hungary's new Defence of National Sovereignty law, setting Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán on a collision course with the bloc. Under the controversial law, Hungarian authorities will be able to use the intelligence services to investigate individuals and organisations involved in the democratic and electoral process and allegedly receiving foreign funds.

Violation of EU values

The Commission said the law, which came into effect in December, violated the democratic values of the EU and the right to privacy of its citizens and the freedom of association among other concerns. Mr. Orban claims the law is intended to curb foreign influence in Hungary.

Mr. Orban, whose Fidesz party has a parliamentary majority, is no stranger to being isolated from his EU and Western allies. The Hungarian leader was initially an outlier blocking a $54 billion EU aid package for Ukraine announced on February 1. Mr. Obran eventually lifted his veto.

He has also been holding out on a parliamentary vote to ratify Sweden's membership to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

The Hungarian government will have two months to respond to the EU's infringement notice.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Bengaluru South Division, Amruthnagara, Konankunte Main Road, Soudamini Layout, Bengaluru - 62

No.: BBMP/EE/BSD/TEND/14/2023-24 Date: 07.02.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

(Only through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal) Single & Two Cover Tender

The Executive Engineer (Bengaluru South Division), BBMP, Bengaluru-62 invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with KPWD / CPWD / BWSSB / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of works detailed in the table below. **(Standard Tender Document - KW1 & KW3)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approximate value of work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Maintenance of road, drains and footpath work in new ward No. 202 Uttarahalli for the year 2023-24. **(Category: Others)**	55.00	1,10,000/-
2	Maintenance of road, drains and footpath work in new ward No. 203 Subramanyapura for the year 2023-24. **(Category: SC)**	55.00	55,000/-
3	Maintenance of road, drains and footpath work in new ward No. 204 Vasanthapura for the year 2023-24. **(Category: ST)**	55.00	55,000/-
4	Maintenance of road, drains and footpath work in new ward No. 205 Yelechenahalli for the year 2023-24. **(Category: Others)**	55.00	1,10,000/-
5	Maintenance of road, drains and footpath work in new ward No. 206 Konanakunte for the year 2023-24. **(Category: Others)**	55.00	1,10,000/-
6	Maintenance of road, drains and footpath work in new ward No. 207 RBI Layout for the year 2023-24. **(Category: SC)**	55.00	55,000/-
7	Maintenance of road, drains and footpath work in new ward No. 208 Anjanapura for the year 2023-24. **(Category: Others)**	55.00	1,10,000/-
8	Maintenance of road, drains and footpath work in new ward No. 209 Gottigere for the year 2023-24. **(Category: Others)**	55.00	1,10,000/-
9	Maintenance of road, drains and footpath work in new ward No. 210 Kalena Agrahara for the year 2023-24. **(Category: Others)**	55.00	1,10,000/-
10	Maintenance of road, drains and footpath work in new ward No. 211 Begur for the year 2023-24. **(Category: Others)**	55.00	1,10,000/-
11	Maintenance of road, drains and footpath work in new ward No. 212 Naganathapura for the year 2023-24. **(Category: Others)**	55.00	1,10,000/-
12	Maintenance of road, drains and footpath work in new ward No. 225 Kudlu for the year 2023-24. **(Category: Others)**	55.00	1,10,000/-
13	Annual maintenance of borewells and water supply through tankers in ward No. 202 Uttarahalli. **(Category: SC)**	20.00	25,000/-
14	Annual maintenance of borewells and water supply through tankers in ward No. 203 Subramanyapura. **(Category: Others)**	20.00	50,000/-
15	Annual maintenance of borewells and water supply through tankers in ward No. 204 Vasanthapura. **(Category: SC)**	15.00	18,750/-
16	Annual maintenance of borewells and water supply through tankers in ward No. 206 Konanakunte. **(Category: Others)**	10.00	25,000/-
17	Annual maintenance of borewells and water supply through tankers in ward No. 208 Anjanapura. **(Category: Others)**	15.00	37,500/-
18	Annual maintenance of borewells and water supply through tankers in ward No. 209 Gottigere. **(Category: ST)**	20.00	25,000/-
19	Annual maintenance of borewells and water supply through tankers in ward No. 210 Kalena Agrahara. **(Category: Others)**	20.00	50,000/-
20	Annual maintenance of borewells and water supply through tankers in ward No. 211 Begur. **(Category: Others)**	20.00	50,000/-
21	Annual maintenance of borewells and water supply through tankers in ward No. 212 Naganathapura. **(Category: Others)**	17.00	42,500/-
22	Annual maintenance of borewells and water supply through tankers in ward No. 225 Kudlu. **(Category: Others)**	10.00	25,000/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Tenders must be submitted online through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal on or before **4:00 p.m.** on **19.02.2024** and the opening of tenders will be as per the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal guidelines. **(2)** Date of Technical bid opening of tenders is on **20.02.2024** by **4:30 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Bengaluru South Division, BBMP

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general Public are hereby notified that my Client intends to purchase the Properties morefully described in the Schedule from its present Owner namely **Sri. M.S. Thangaraj** S/o. Late. Sri. D.N. Shyamanna. Any person having any claims or objections for the proposed Sale can send their objections with all supporting documents to the undersigned within a period of ***15 days*** from this day, failing which my client would proceed and conclude the proposed sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ITEM NO.1: All that Piece and Parcel of Land bearing **Survey No. 541, measuring an extent of 5 Acres 09 Guntas** (including 20 Guntas Karab) and Survey No. 542, measuring an extent of 4 Acres 13 Guntas, of **Gangasandra Village, Kasaba Hobli, Gowribidanaur Taluk, Kolar District** and bounded as follows:
East by: Bandi Dhaari and Saganahalli Pedanna Property,
West by: Private Property,
North by: Property belongs to Sri. Shyamrao
South by: Property belongs to Sidikc.

ITEM NO.2: All that Piece and Parcel of Land bearing **Survey No. 594/1, measuring an extent of 2 Acres 32 Guntas** (including 03 Guntas Karab) and Survey No. 594/2, measuring an extent of 2 Acres 02 Guntas (including 04 Guntas Karab), of **Gangasandra Village, Kasaba Hobli, Gowribidanaur Taluk, Kolar District** and bounded as follows:
East by: Bandi Dhaari and Gangadharappa & Krishnappa Property,
West by: Sriramaiah & Kallur Gangareddy Property,
North by: Property bearing Survey No. 592,
South by: Bandi Road.

ITEM NO.3: All that Piece and Parcel of Land bearing **Survey No. 634, measuring an extent of 4 Acres 04 Guntas** (including 36 Guntas Karab), of Gangasandra Village, Kasaba Hobli, Gowribidanaur Taluk, Kolar District and bounded by:
East by : Mula Venkataramanappa Property,
West by : Etappa Property,
North by: Private Property,
South by: Property belonging to Ramegowda.

Sd/-
Sharanya P.A., Advocate,
417, 12th Main Road, 75th Cross, 6th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore -560 010.
(M) : 8792232913

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

8th YEAR FOND REMEMBRANCE

DOB: 18-7-1930 DOD: 08-2-2016

MATHAVAN G.,
ITI Retd.,
S/o Late M. Ganapathi
No. 114/3, Old Madras Road,
Near Swamy Vivekananda Ashram,
Ulsoor, Bangalore-560 008.

Inserted by:
SRINIVASA R.
99161 84689

INBRIEF

HDFC Bank raises $750 mn through Regulation S Bonds

HDFC Bank said it had raised $300 million through its first ever sustainable finance bond issue. This is part of an overall fund raising of $750 million through Regulation S Bonds. While $300 million has been raised for a tenure of three years with a 95 basis points spread over comparable U.S. Treasury notes, another $450 million has been raised for a tenure of 5 years, with a spread of 108 basis points over U.S. Treasury notes, the private sector lender said.

HUL announces key management changes

Hindustan Unilever Ltd. (HUL) on Wednesday announced key changes to its management committee, effective April 1. Shiva Krishnamurthy (49) will join the committee as executive director, Foods and Refreshment. Srinandan Sundaram, currently executive director, Foods and Refreshment, will take over as the executive director, Homecare. Deepak Subramanian, executive director, Homecare, will be moving on to a new role overseas.

IGL signs MoUs to set up 19 CBG plants in four States

Indraprastha Gas Ltd. (IGL) signed MoUs with two technology partners during 'India Energy Week 2024' to establish Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants in Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and U.P. The biogas produced from these 19 plants would be fed into IGL's City Gas Distribution (CGD) network. The partnership aims to produce 0.45 million metric standard cubic metres per day of biogas from waste, equivalent to 5% of IGL's daily requirements, the company said.

'Retail inflation likely eased in Jan.'

Vegetable thali cost increased 5% year-on-year in January compared with 12% in December, as per Crisil's monthly food plate assessments; Bank of Baroda economists said they foresee price rise for essential commodities slowing to 3.9%

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Easing food prices may help cool India's consumer price inflation (CPI) in January from the four-month high of 5.7% recorded in December, price trends for food plates and essential commodities for the last month indicate.

Affordable bite: 'Easing vegetable prices played a huge role in the consumer price index's likely moderation in January'. AFP

Significant drop

Food inflation had hit 9.5% in December, with urban consumers facing a 10.4% uptick in prices. Bank of Baroda (BoB) economists said they expect retail inflation, official data for which is due on Monday, to ease to 4.7% in January, with the pace of price rise for essential commodities slowing to 3.9%.

Moreover, vegetable thali costs rose 5% year-on-year in January compared with 12% in December, as per Crisil's monthly food plate assessments, while a non-vegetarian plate's cost declined 13% on a sharp drop in broiler prices.

"The cost of vegetarian thali increased due to a surge of 35% and 20% year-on-year in the prices of onion and tomato, respectively. Price of rice (accounting for 12% of vegetrian thali cost) and pulses (9%) also increased 14% and 21% year-on-year, respectively," Crisil Market Intelligence and Analytics wrote in a note. But compared with December 2023 levels, both vegetarian and non-vegetarian plate costs slid 6% and 8%.

As many as 17 of the 20 commodities tracked in BoB's Essential Commodity Index registered a softening of prices, including onions, tomatoes, and pulses such as arhar, the bank's economist Dipanwita Mazumdar wrote in a note. On a month-on-month basis, the index fell 1% in January, the sharpest drop since September.

"We expect the headline CPI to settle at around 4.7% in January, and a favourable base would also provide the desired cushion to this number. However, what needs to be closely watched is the evolution of these numbers, especially vegetable prices," she said.

While easing vegetable prices played a big role in the index's moderation for January, some of the prices have begun showing an uptick in the past week.

India-China bilateral trade hit a new record in 2023, says Chinese envoy

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India's trade with China reached record levels in 2023, said the Chinese envoy to India, indicating that bilateral trade had surpassed 2022 figures despite a slowdown mid-year. Speaking at an event celebrating the Chinese New Year, the envoy, Charge D'Affaires Ma Jia said that the growth in trade, to $136.2 billion, went along with other areas of "improvement" in bilateral ties, pointing to the informal meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in August.

Ma Jia

In 2022, bilateral trade had reached a record $135.98, with imports from China surpassing $100 billion driven by a 21% rise in inbound shipments despite the continuing bilateral tensions over the military standoff at the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

"Over the past year, China-India relations have shown a positive momentum of improvement," Ms. Ma said, addressing guests at a reception held at the Chinese Embassy on Tuesday. "President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Modi reached important consensus on stabilising bilateral ties. China supported India's presidency of both G20 and SCO.

"Bilateral trade volume reached $136.2 billion last year, with a year-on-year growth of 1.5%. India's exports to China also increased by 6%," she added, indicating that the bilateral trade deficit, which India has been seeking to shrink, could also be lower, according to the figures that were announced officially for the first time.

Despite the increased engagement, China has not appointed an Ambassador in over 16 months, the longest period so far, and the two countries have also not resumed direct flights between them.

'Energy reforms kept fuel prices affordable'

Lalatendu Mishra
BETUL, GOA

Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Hardeep S. Puri said India's reforms in the energy sector, including diversification of sources of imports and changes in gas-pricing mechanism, had ensured prices of petrol and diesel in India declined while global prices were surging.

He spoke at the India Energy Week 2024.

((The writer is in Goa at Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry's invitation)

Nadella's sales pitch for AI in India: start adopting fast or risk being left behind

Aroon Deep
MUMBAI

Microsoft Corp.'s Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Satya Nadella kicked off his India visit with a straightforward Artificial Intelligence (AI) pitch to Indian businesses: start deploying AI systems quickly, or fall behind. "The first [imperative] is to just adopt some of these products like Copilot fast," Mr. Nadella told an audience of business and technology executives here on Wednesday, referring to the company's interactive chatbot product.

Mr. Nadella compared the AI wave to Great Britain's massive investments in rail transportation, arguing that investments in the technology could boost India's GDP.

"In India's case ... this is one of the highest growth markets, you see the buoyancy of it, the government and all of you have high ambitions for what's going to happen even by 2025," Mr. Nadella noted.

Mr. Nadella's visit comes as firms such as Microsoft and Google's parent Alphabet Inc. see India as a promising market both as a source for AI talent, as well as in terms of a market where big corporate firms can buy AI products for their own businesses.

Wooing India: The cost curves of AI are only going to come down, says Microsoft's Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella. AP

> The only consistent agenda we have is that... you can only offer AI that is safe and trusted in India
>
> **RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR**
> Minister of State, MeitY

AI skilling

Mr. Nadella also announced that the firm would provide AI skilling opportunities to 20 lakh Indians by 2025. "Making sure that [the Indian workforce has] the skills in order to be able to thrive in this new age is the most important thing that any of us can be doing," he said.

Puneet Chandok, who recently joined as the India president at Microsoft, expressed optimism that AI talent from India would make a significant contribution to the sector. "Every sixth AI researcher and technologist in the world is coming from India," he said, adding that a quarter of the new workforce in coming years would be from India.

Mr. Nadella referred to 'Moore's law,' which essentially amounts to the principle that computing power constantly increases at lower cost. "Moore's law is very much alive when it comes to AI," Mr. Nadella said, seeking to assuage concerns on the resource-intensiveness (and high cost) of AI applications. "The cost curves of AI are only going to come down," he asserted.

Regulating AI

The Union government has exhibited openness to letting Big Tech firms such as Microsoft and Google develop and deploy AI applications quickly. In response to a query on Tuesday, Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar said that "The only consistent agenda we have [when meeting and talking to firms developing AI] is that ... you can only offer AI that is safe and trusted in India".

Mr. Chandrasekhar referred to a Google Bard chatbot response from November, which called two right-wing news platforms 'biased,' and said that experimental models needed to be supervised. "You can't 'trial' a car on the road and when there is an accident say, 'whoops, it is just on trial. You need to sandbox [such models]."

(The writer was in Mumbai at the invitation of Microsoft)

'India to be biggest driver of oil demand growth by year 2030'

Lalatendu Mishra
BETUL, GOA

India would become the largest source of global oil demand growth by 2030, while growth in developed economies and China initially would slow and subsequently reverse, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in its 'Indian Oil Market Outlook to 2030' report released at the India Energy Week 2024 in Goa.

Urbanisation, industrialisation, emergence of a wealthier middle-class keen on mobility and tourism and efforts to improve access to clean cooking, would spur expansion in oil demand, the IEA said.

"India is on track to post an increase of almost 1.2 mb/d (million barrels/day), accounting for more than one-third of the projected 3.2 mb/d global gains, to reach 6.6 mb/d by 2030," the IEA added.

Massive industrial expansion would see diesel continuing to remain the single largest source of oil demand growth, accounting for almost half of the rise in India's demand and more than one-sixth of total global oil demand growth through to 2030.

Jet kerosene demand is set to grow at about 5.9% per year on an average, but from a low base compared with other countries.

Gasoline would grow by 0.7% on average, as electrification of the vehicle fleet dampens demand.

Also, biofuels are expected to play a key role in India's decarbonisation of the transport sector.

(The writer is in Goa at Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry's invitation)

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	72,152	-0.04
US Dollar	82.96	0.10
Gold	63,370	0.26
Brent oil	78.85	0.45

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3229.85	26.10
Adani Ports	1255.65	-17.45
Apollo Hosp	6177.95	-19.35
Asian Paints	2981.15	50.20
Axis Bank	1069.10	19.05
Bajaj Auto	7701.90	-18.50
Bajaj Finserv	1596.20	-0.85
Bajaj Finance	6709.20	111.05
Bharti Airtel	1134.30	0.25
BPCL	602.05	-7.25
Britannia Ind	5078.25	71.20
Cipla	1438.75	13.30
Coal India	452.65	4.00
Divis Lab	3731.80	5.30
Dr Reddys Lab	6179.75	13.15
Eicher Motors	3927.65	-16.95
Grasim Ind	2111.50	45.50
HCL Tech	1615.35	-8.40
HDFC Bank	1429.95	-14.15
HDFC Life	605.15	12.40
Hero MotoCorp	4793.35	9.90
Hindalco	592.25	7.35
Hind Unilever	2425.45	-0.90
ICICI Bank	1022.15	-4.25
IndusInd Bank	1515.35	3.95
Infosys	1693.75	-35.70
ITC	431.80	0.40
JSW Steel	836.60	17.85
Kotak Bank	1792.60	5.60
L&T	3394.70	-29.55
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5447.90	-22.40
M&M	1721.00	-6.65
Maruti Suzuki	10935.70	90.85
NestleIndia	2499.60	42.95
NTPC	330.70	-3.50
ONGC	271.90	-0.40
PowerGrid Corp	267.95	-6.30
Reliance Ind	2884.30	28.70
SBI Life	1469.45	5.45
State Bank	675.25	25.00
Sun Pharma	1496.20	21.10
TataConsumerProduct	1166.20	2.65
Tata Motors	933.80	-5.75
Tata Steel	144.40	-0.25
TCS	4083.40	-52.60
Tech Mahindra	1318.00	-33.05
Titan	3576.50	17.35
UltraTech Cement	10226.50	177.75
UPL	477.80	-4.05
Wipro	495.20	-4.45

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 07

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.77	83.09
Euro	89.11	89.46
British Pound	104.57	104.98
Japanese Yen (100)	55.94	56.16
Chinese Yuan	11.51	11.56
Swiss Franc	94.92	95.30
Singapore Dollar	61.61	61.86
Canadian Dollar	61.41	61.65
Malaysian Ringitt	17.37	17.45
Australian Dollar	54.01	54.23

Source:Indian Bank

REVENUE DEPARTMENT
BHOOMI MONITORING CELL
First Floor, SSLR Building, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001.
No: BMC/2023-24/IND0004 Date: 31.01.2024
CORRIGENDUM
With reference to the advertisement released in this Newspaper on **01.02.2024** the Last Date for uploading filled tender form in e-procurement portal will be **14.02.2024 by 5:30 p.m.** Other terms and conditions will remain same.
Sd/- Assistant Commissioner

KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forest, Wildlife Sub-Division, Kanakapura E-mail : acfkkpwl@gmail.com
No. : A.C.F./W.S.D./E-Tender/CR-05/2023-24 Date : 03-02-2024
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (2nd Call)
During the year 2023-24 tender has been called through E-procurement to taken up the **Rail's Transportation and Erection of Railway Barricade in Sangam Wildlife Range of Cauvery Wildlife Sanctury.** Interested registered contractors can participate in the Tender through E-procurement portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** for further details can contact the under signed Office in the Office hours.
Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forest, Wildlife Sub-Division, Kanakapura.
DIPR/Ramanagar/429/Manipal/2023-24

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.
No: KREIS/EE-1/Tender 09/2023-24 Date: 07.02.2024
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement Only)
The tenders have been invited for **Construction of Residential Schools in Raichur, Tumkur, Ramanagara, Hassan, Chikkaballapura Districts, Construction of 2nd Phase MDRS Residential School in Mandya District and Construction of Compound Wall in Mysore, Bangalore, Belagavi, Kalburgi Revenue Districts of KREIS, respectively (Tender Indent No. 156, 161, 154, 170, 130, 120, 155, 153, 160, 158 and 159)** through e-Portal vide website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **07.02.2024.** The last date for receipt of tenders is **21.02.2024.** The details may be viewed in the above website.
Note: Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-Procurement portal only.
Sd/- Executive Engineer-1 KREIS
DIPR/CP/YC/3459/2023-24

Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Bagalkot
Tel Phone.: 08354- 235042 Fax: 08354-235043
E-mail ID: bgkeezpe@yahoo.com
No: EE/PRED/BGK/PB-2/FSTP/Tender/2022-23/3142
Date:07.02.2024
SHORT Re-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(KW-3 Bid Document) (Two Cover System)
Tender Called for the Work in the above notification through E-mode tendering is read as below.
Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement ACT 1999 and Rules 2000 STANDARD BID DOCUMENT KW-4 through Public electronic Tendering System **(E-Tender from Class-1 contractor (Civil) registered in KPWD,** Who have got adequate financial resources, State of Technology, Suitable Construction equipments technical man Power & Sufficient past Experience for the following Work as per Schedule Given Below.
Tender Called for ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಸ್ವಚ್ಚ ಭಾರತ್ ಮಿಷನ್ (ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ)ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದ್ರವತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ಕಪ್ಪು ನೀರು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಲತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ (ಈಮುಖಿಕ) ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಘಟಕ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ **ರೂ. 79.60ಲಕ್ಷ ಅಂ.ಮೊತ್ತದ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ** ಆಯ್ಕೆಯಾದ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ, ಹುನಗುಂದ, ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ
Scheme Under Work Indent No: 912/Call-2 read as below.

Calendar of events		
1	Request of blank Tender Documents and receipt of Completed Technical & Financial Bid through e-procurement	**Dt: 07.02.2024 to 19.01.2024 at 5.30pm**
2	Opening of Technical Bid Date	**Dt: 21.02.2024 at 11.00am**
3	Opening of Financial Bid Date	**Technical Bid Approved.**

Note:- More details can be obtained through website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the below signed Office during the office hours. Phone no: 08354-235042
Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
P.R.E. Division, Bagalkot
ಪಾ.ರಾ.ಇ./ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ/349/2023-24/ದೇಶಕಾಂಡಪದ್ಧಪಟ

REVENUE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
Ramanagara Division, Ramanagara. Phone : 080 - 2727 3777
E-mail : deo.ramanagara@gmail.com
No. : Ra.Ji.Ka./CAL/32/2023-24 Date : 06-02-2024
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only) Two Cover Tender Document System
The Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ramanagara District, Ramanagara invites tenders for procurement of **fodder supply (Dry and Green) to drought of Taluks in Ramanagara District.** Through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz. www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** under **Two Cover Tender Document System** procedure as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed. The tenderers are advised to note qualification criteria of the Instructions as per the Tender Document te tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. Interested Agency / Contractors shall register on the KPPP platform to participate in this tender. Contractors can Download the Tender Documents from the KPPP platform **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** EMD and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically.
Name of the Works : 1) Indent No. : RD/2023-24/IND0130, Supply of Fodder (Dry) in drought affected Taluks in Ramanagara District. Amount put to Tender : Rs. 130.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 2.00 Lakhs, Period of Completion : 04 Months. 2) Indent No. : RD/2023-24/IND0129, Supply of Fodder (Green) in drought affected Taluks in Ramanagara District. Amount put to Tender : Rs. 70.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 1.40 Lakhs, Period of Completion : 04 Months.
Calendar of Events and Other information's are as follows :
1) Pre-Bid Meeting Date : 09-02-2024 at 11.00 hrs, 2) Last Date of Time of Uploading of Completed Tender Documents : 14-02-2024 upto 17.00 hrs, 3) Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) : 16-02-2024 at 11.00 hrs.
Tender Conditions and Further Information can be obtained from the said Office during working hours. If any changes in the calendar of events and the conditions will be notified on KPP Portal only.
Sd/- Additional Commissioner, Ramanagara District. Ramanagara.
DIPR/Ramanagar/434/Manipal/2023-24

TRIAL BY FIRE

We got taste of a close game, which will be good in final: Saharan

GETTY IMAGES

Captain Uday Saharan said that winning a close semifinal clash against South Africa will benefit India in the ICC U-19 World Cup title clash. "We got a taste of close games and that will be good in the final. We don't let the morale get low in the dressing room at all. The environment and coaches are superb," Saharan said.

BAZBALL EFFECT

Botham credits England for infusing life into Test cricket

K.R. DEEPAK

Ian Botham feels England's Bazball approach has infused new life into Test cricket. "Playing against India 20-30 years ago in India, the grounds were heaving. Suddenly, the IPL came along and so did ODI cricket and the crowds then plummeted. People are now coming back and wanting to see Bazball," Botham said.

READY

Pant confident of playing entire IPL: Capitals head coach Ponting

FILE PHOTO

Rishabh Pant is confident of playing the entire IPL but could only be available as a batter and not behind the stumps, Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting said. "Rishabh is very confident that he's going to play. In what capacity we're not quite sure yet. We're not sure if we'll get wicketkeeping out of him this year," Ponting said.

NEW ROUTE

We don't do team meetings anymore: Root on Bazball culture

K.R. DEEPAK

England under Ben Stokes prefers organic conversations about the game, said Joe Root. "We don't do team meetings. That's one of the great things about how we do conversations away from the game... we don't have to sit in a meeting room, and I think it's more authentic when you can have it around a dinner table," he said.

India in free fall as it loses again, this time to Australia

Grace, Tatum, and Kaitlin find the net for the visitors; China returns to winning ways with a 3-1 result against the USA and remains second in the points table

Unstoppable: Australia's players celebrate after a lacklustre India failed to mount a decent challenge. BISWARANJAN ROUT

FIH PRO LEAGUE

Uthra Ganesan
BHUBANESWAR

The Indian women's hockey team continued its downward spiral, losing its third consecutive match in the FIH Pro League 3-0 against Australia at the Kalinga Stadium on Wednesday.

An aggressive start and a wasted early penalty corner was the lone bright spot for the team that has been struggling to get anything going for it.

Nothing seems to be working for the team, with every player in every department appearing more desperate than decisive on the field.

Australia has been less than impressive here, but on Wednesday, it was clearly the superior side. Its first goal exposed both the Indians' lack of tactical awareness and their fitness.

Kaitlin Nobbs ran away with the ball on the counter and had entered the circle, composed herself and the ball and was ready to shoot before the Indians could back-pedal into defence. Grace Stewart, again left unmarked, only had to deflect it in.

Nobbs got one of her own later, again all alone in a one-on-one situation with the goalkeeper and an absent defence.

In between, India earned a few PCs, but Gurjit Kaur's flicks had no power to cause any trouble even as Australia made its lone one count. The Indian forwards also struggled to get shots on target as the host looked like a team playing out of its league.

Earlier in the day, China returned to winning ways with a 3-1 victory against the USA to remain second on the points table, easily finding ways past the American defence to create scoring chances early on.

The second half saw USA step on the attack and earn a series of PCs but were thwarted by both the Chinese defence and the post before finally getting one past.

The results: China 3 (Wen Dan 2, Meirong Zou) bt USA 1 (Jacqueline Sumfest); Australia 3 (Grace Stewart, Tatum Stewart, Kaitlin Nobbs) bt India 0.

Bumrah the best in the world across formats: Harmison

ENGLAND IN INDIA

P.K. Ajith Kumar
VISAKHAPATNAM

It has been 20 years since Steve Harmison blew away a formidable West Indies batting line-up at Kingston. In a furious spell of pace and bounce, he took seven for 12 to bowl the West Indies out for 47, its lowest Test total.

England won that match by 10 wickets and went on to clinch its first series in the West Indies since 1968; the series had been decided before Brian Lara made 400 not out in the final Test. Harmison believes what England achieved against India in the first Test at Hyderabad is more remarkable.

"It is England's greatest win overseas I have seen in isolation," Harmison, who is doing radio commentary for listeners of *talkSport* back home, told *The Hindu*.

"England's wins here in India in 2012 and in Australia in 2010-11 have been the best series victories. And this England side has a chance to emulate that. To play the way it did in Hyderabad I thought it was the greatest win I ever saw."

Ollie Pope's 196 in the second innings played a key role in that victory. "He was concise with his movements and his shot selection and execution were brilliant," Harmison, who took 226 wickets from 63 Tests, said.

"And he has nailed down the No. 3 position, which has always been a problem for England."

Special one: Harmison said Bumrah's spell in the second Test was unbelievable. KVS GIRI

Harmison said the current series has produced some splendid cricket. "It has been a brilliant series," he said.

"I think both sides have played positively and tried to win, and that has made for better cricket. India will be favourite in its own backyard but England has given it something to think about."

High-quality stuff

As a former quick, Harmison said he enjoyed watching some high quality pace bowling in the series by Jasprit Bumrah and James Anderson. "Bumrah's spell in the first innings here was unbelievable," he said. "I think he is the best fast bowler in the world across formats at this moment of time. That one hour in Hyderabad, in which he got (Joe) Root and (Ben) Duckett out, I thought it was as good a spell of fast bowling I have seen in a long, long time. His skill was brilliant."

He said people would not have expected a seamer to take five wickets but spin to be dominant.

"We got to watch Bumrah and Anderson, who at 41, is the greatest fast bowler the world has ever seen," he said. "It was a joy to watch them bowl."

Kohli. GETTY IMAGES

Kohli likely to miss the next two Tests, doubtful for final one too

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Virat Kohli is likely to miss the third and fourth Tests too against England due to personal reasons, a BCCI source said on Wednesday.

The chances of him playing in the final Test in Dharamshala (March 7-11) are also remote, but the board isn't looking that far as the match is still a month away.

The third Test will be held in Rajkot from February 15-19, while the fourth game is in Ranchi from February 23-27.

"The BCCI has time and again made it clear that when it comes to family matters, it stands firmly behind the cricketer. It will be Virat's call when he is ready to make a comeback. As of now, it looks unlikely that he will play in the series," said a BCCI source.

In other team news, K.L. Rahul is likely to return to the playing XI and Rajat Patidar is set to make way for him.

Korneeva stops a fighting Shrivalli, books a spot in the quarterfinals

MUMBAI OPEN

Kamesh Srinivasan
MUMBAI

Shrivalli Bhamidipaty matched the 16-year-old Russian sensation Alina Korneeva for nearly two hours and 30 minutes before losing 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 in the pre-quarterfinals of the L&T Mumbai Open WTA tennis at the CCI on Wednesday.

Shrivalli got off to a flier with an early break and hitting her strokes with conviction. She won the first set after Korneeva failed to serve it out at 5-4.

Shrivalli fought well in the second set also after trailing 1-4. She hit fluently on both flanks and was able to get to the drops and place them nicely beyond Korneeva's reach.

In the climax of the third set, Shrivalli did not let the 134th-ranked Korneeva convert two match points at 5-2. But the strong-built Russian – who was world No. 1 junior last year, having won two Junior Grand Slams – was able to serve it out on the next chance.

The two other Indians in the second round, Rutuja Bhosale and Sahaja Yamalapalli, will play their matches on Thursday.

The results:

Pre-quarterfinals: Darja Semenistaja (Lat) bt Amandine Hesse (Fra) 2-6, 6-4, 6-4; Arianne Hartono (Ned) bt Arina Rodionova (Aus) 6-4, 6-4; Storm Hunter (Aus) bt Laura Pigossi (Bra) 6-3, 6-3; Alina Korneeva bt Shrivalli Bhamidipaty 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

Doubles: Quarterfinals: Zhibek Kulambayeva (Kaz) & Sohyun Park (Kor) bt Carole Monnet & Ekaterina Yashina 7-6(4), 6-1; Pre-quarterfinals: Natalia Dzalamidze (Geo) & Panna Udvardy (Hun) bt En-Shuo Liang & Chia Yi Tsao (Tpe) 4-6, 6-4, [10-7]; Dalila Jakupovic (Slo) & Sabrina Santamaria (USA) bt Vaishnavi Adkar & Sahaja Yamalapalli 6-3, 7-6(1).

Plugging away: Korneeva brushed aside an early challenge from Shrivalli. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Bumrah becomes first Indian pace bowler to top the ICC Test rankings

CRICKET

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

Jasprit Bumrah on Wednesday became the first Indian pacer to top the ICC Test rankings after a stellar performance against England in Visakhapatnam.

The 30-year-old's nine-wicket match haul has helped him leapfrog Pat Cummins, Kagiso Rabada and R. Ashwin, making him only the fourth from his country to attain number one position.

Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Bishan Singh Bedi are the other Indians who have been at the top of the charts.

Bumrah, who was named Player-of-the-Match after helping India level the five-match series with a 106-run victory, ended Ashwin's 11-month long reign. Ashwin, on 499 Test wickets, is now third in the standings.

Numero Uno: Bumrah's stellar performances at Visakhapatnam took him to the top. K.R. DEEPAK

Bumrah now has 881 rating points with Ashwin (904) and Jadeja (899) the only India bowlers to have aggregated more rating points. Ashwin and Jadeja also have the unique distinction of being jointly top-ranked in March 2017.

The batting rankings see left-handed opener Yashasvi Jaiswal progress 37 places to 29th after completing a fine double-century in the first innings and Shubman Gill go up 14 places to a career-best 38th.

Zak Crawley is another player to gain after the Visakhapatnam Test, moving up eight places to a career-best 22nd position after scores of 76 and 73.

The latest rankings have also factored in performances in the one-off Test between Sri Lanka and Afghanistan in Colombo. Prabhath Jayasuriya has moved up to three places to a career-best sixth position after his eight-wicket match haul helped the home side win by 10 wickets.

INBRIEF

Inamdar guides Paltan to big win over Bulls

Having already qualified for the playoffs, Puneri Paltan was in great form as it secured a 31-40 win over the Bengaluru Bulls at the Thyagaraj Indoor Stadium in Delhi on Wednesday. Despite a late comeback by the Bengaluru Bulls, Skipper Aslam Inamdar's top performance was supported by his teammates as it continued its fight for one of the two places in the semifinals.

Rajeshwari misses women's trap final by one point

Rajeshwari Kumari shot 113 and missed making the women's trap final by one point in the shotgun World Cup in Rabat on Wednesday. Bhavya Tripathi (109) and Manisha Keer (106) were placed 19th and 24th respectively. In men's trap, Bhowneesh Mendiratta and Zoravar Sandhu shot identical 118 for the 17th and 23rd spots respectively.

Punjab men rally to put it across Kerala

Punjab beat Kerala 72-63, after trailing till third quarter, in a men's league match of the junior National basketball in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday. In the women's section, Punjab finished its league engagements by winning all four matches.

The results: Men: Chandigarh 65 (Ravinder Kaushik 23, Himanshu Hooda 18) bt Karnataka 50 (Avinash Nayak 22, N.M. Vishnu 10, Prithvi Samaresh 10); Punjab 72 (Jessajam Singh 27, Bhanu Pratap Singh 20) bt Kerala 63 (Muhammed Sahal 19, Mohammed Irfan 16, Jims K. Joby 16).
Madhya Pradesh 69 (Ajay 16, Goutham Pal 16) bt Karnataka 61 (Avinash Nayak 22, N.M. Vishnu 12); Tamil Nadu 85 (S. Deepak 14, Prahaladhan 13, Karan J. Jayamurugan 10) bt Andhra Pradesh 58 (Sathya Prakash Gandodi 21, Anil Kumar 12).
Women: Maharashtra 76 (Sanika Phule 19, Bhumika Sarje 16, Mansi Nirmal 11) bt Chandigarh 45 (Arpita Dey 12, Anshu 10); Kerala 68 (K.A. Abhirami 24, P.A. Alka 16, S.P. Ankamol 13) bt Karnataka 45.
Punjab 79 (Manmeet Kaur 23, Komal Preet Kaur 20, Mahip Kaur 14, Anchal 10, Nadar Dhillon 12) bt Uttar Pradesh 69 (Ruby Rajput 25, Nancy Gupta 18); Madhya Pradesh 56 (Ananya Maheswari 12, Kushi Pal Singh 11) bt Haryana 38 (Anjali Suresh Kumar 13).

Barcelona to take Zenit St. Petersburg to CAS

Barcelona is taking Zenit St. Petersburg to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in pursuit of a bonus payment it missed out on after the latter was banned from the Champions League. Barca claims it is owed $525,000 from Zenit because of a clause in the deal that saw Malcom join Zenit in 2019.

LIVE TELECAST

Men's U-19 CWC: 2nd semifinal, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 p.m.

Second seed Nagal eases past Fioni, marches into the quarterfinals

The Indian will face Dominik Palan who beat back a tough challenge from Samuel Vincent Ruggeri; Nardi defeats Tomic to also advance

CHENNAI OPEN

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Playing on Centre Court at 2 in the afternoon, second seed Sumit Nagal made light of the hot and humid conditions, attacked well from the baseline and volleyed when it mattered to script a facile 7-5, 6-2 win over Giovanni Fonio of Italy in the second round of the Chennai Open ATP Challenger tennis here on Wednesday.

Luca Nardi of Italy, the top seed, huffed and puffed before overcoming Bernard Tomic of Australia 7-5, 6-3. Nardi will next take on Stefano Napolitano of Italy, the fifth seed, who put it across Dan Added of France 6-2, 6-1.

Fonio is an attacking player much like Nagal except that he has a one-handed backhand unlike his Indian opponent. There was little to separate the two in the first set, as both confidently held their serves. Fioni held his serve at love in the 10th game as the score was tied at 5-5. So did Nagal in the next game.

In the 12th game, the Italian, ranked 270 in the world, was broken at 15 when he put a routine backhand shot from the baseline straight into the net.

Nagal, the highest ranked Indian in the world at 121, raced to a 3-0 lead in the second set with some attractive forehand cross-court winners and strong first serves. Fioni's game started to fall apart as he continued to commit far too many unforced errors from the baseline.

In the last singles match of the day, Dominik Palan of the Czech Republic beat back a tough challenge from Samuel Vincent Ruggeri of Italy before winning 6-2, 2-6, 6-4. Palan will challenge Nagal in the quarterfinals.

Nardi struggled in the first set, but was able to break Tomic in the 12th game with a good finish at the net to pocket the set. Tomic looked uninterested in the second as the Italian raced to a 3-0 and 4-1 lead. From thereon, there wasn't much of a fight from the Australian.

The results (second round): Lucas Nardi (Ita) bt Bernard Tomic (Aus) 7-5, 6-3; Sumit Nagal bt Giovanni Fonio (Ita) 7-5, 6-2; Stefano Napolitano (Ita) bt Dan Added (Fra) 6-2, 6-1; Dominik Palan (Cze) bt Samuel Vincent Ruggeri (Ita) 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

Working hard: Luca Nardi in action against Bernard Tomic. R. RAVINDRAN.

Williams' strike does it for Bengaluru as it eases past a lacklustre Chennaiyin

Making a difference: Williams shrugged off his marker and found the net. (Right) Tennis star Rohan Bopanna, who came out in support of BFC, is feted by Sunil Chhetri. K. MURALI KUMAR

ISL-10

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

A second-half strike from Ryan Williams helped Bengaluru FC take a giant leap in the Indian Super League here on Wednesday.

Williams' goal gave the home side a 1-0 win over Chennaiyin FC at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium, and powered BFC (14 points) from eleventh to sixth on the points table.

Williams came good after several chances went abegging for his side. Denmark striker Oliver Drost, making his first appearance for BFC, won the ball in midfield and made a short pass to Halicharan Narzary. With a silken through ball, Narzary sent Williams on a run. The Australian shrugged off his marker and slotted it into the net.

The introduction of Drost and Narzary – the duo came on together as substitutes – provided impetus to the BFC attack.

A lacklustre Chennaiyin (12 points) dropped one spot to tenth.

The visitor, returning to the field after a two-week break, looked rusty.

BFC dominated possession and created better chances. Chennaiyin's best opportunity came in the 49th minute, when Connor Shields had only the custodian to beat.

A rushed side-footed effort, however, sailed over the bar.

The first half belonged to BFC, even if its finishing skills left a lot to be desired.

Sunil Chhetri and Williams linked well to make the defenders sweat. Chhetri would be disappointed to fluff a sitter inside the box, when he missed a perfectly weighted pass served on a platter.

In general, players from both units struggled with their first touch, cutting short most promising advances.

The result: BFC 1 (Ryan Williams 62) bt Chennaiyin FC 0.

Manasi, Mandeep and Palak eye Paralympics berth

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Indian para badminton players Manasi Joshi, Mandeep Kaur and Palak Kohli have set sights on excelling in the World Championships to be held in Pattaya from February 20 to 25, as success there would propel them to the Paralympics later this year.

India won 21 medals in badminton from a historic total of 111 at the Hangzhou Para Asian Games last year, with Manasi and Mandeep clinching a bronze each in singles.

There was further success in store for both in the women's doubles SL3-SU5 event, with Manasi bagging a silver with Thulasimathi Murugesan and Mandeep winning a bronze with Manisha Ramdass.

"We all are going to be playing in the World Championships for which we are travelling on February 17. This is the final; this is the end of the Paralympics qualification year," Manasi said.

Manasi. FILE PHOTO

"The qualification process ends on March 31, from that day our rankings and the race to Paris will be frozen and that is why this World Championship tournament is important for all of us," she added.

Mandeep said training for two months before the tournament in Pattaya would help the shuttlers.

The 21-year-old Palak, who has recovered from bone tumour, said she is more confident of overcoming the challenges. ahead. "My main target this year is Paris; I am not looking at anything lesser than a podium there."

Jamieson and Santner bowl New Zealand to massive win

SA IN NZ

Agence France-Presse
MOUNT MAUNGANUI

Enforcer: Jamieson, who used the bouncer intelligently, gets a pat from Southee for snaring Bedingham. AP

Black Caps seamer Kyle Jamieson claimed four wickets on Wednesday to drive New Zealand to a 281-run win over South Africa with a day to spare in the first Test.

Dogged resistance from the tourists ended with their dismissal for 247 at Mount Maunganui as the Black Caps notched their second-biggest Test victory by runs.

New Zealand is a step closer to a maiden series win over South Africa after 17 previous failed attempts, dating back to 1931.

Given their struggles at Bay Oval, the vastly inexperienced Proteas will need a dramatic turnaround to win the second and final Test, starting on Tuesday in Hamilton.

New Zealand took control with 511 in its first innings and never looked like losing when the tourists –fielding six debutantswere dismissed for 162.

The hosts declared at their overnight 179 for four leaving South Africa to chase an unrealistic target of 529.

Jamieson ensured they never came close, taking four for 58. The most crucial wicket was that of David Bedingham, who raced to a career-high 87 off 96 balls before he mistimed a pull shot to midwicket soon after tea.

It ended a 105-run stand with Keegan Petersen, who also failed to control a Jamieson short ball on 16.

A resolute 63-run stand for the third wicket was broken by Jamieson, who snared Raynard van Tonder at first slip for 31 before Zubayr Hamza's attempted pull shot on 36 flew gently to mid-on.

The scores: New Zealand 511 & 179/4 decl, beat South Africa 162 & 247 in 80 overs (David Bedingham 87, Zubayr Hamza 36, Ruan de Swardt 34 n.o. Raynard van Tonder 31, Jamieson 4/58, Santner 3/59). *New Zealand won by 281 runs to lead two-match series 1-0.* **Player-of-the-Match**: R. Ravindra.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Smaran scores century

R. Smaran scored 117 as Karnataka defeated Gujarat by five wickets in a C.K. Nayudu (under-23) Trophy match held at the Alur grounds, Bengaluru.
The scores: Gujarat 184 in 69.5 overs (Aryadevsinh Vaghela 28, Rohan Mistry 52, S.M. Prajapati 27, Jay Malusare 28, Yashovardhan Parantap 4/43, Dheeraj J. Gowda 3/42) & 259 in 83.1 overs (Rishi Patel 110, Aarya Desai 29, Jaymeet Patel 33, Mohsin Khan 3/61) lost to Karnataka 239 in 70.4 overs (R. Smaran 117, Yashovardhan Parantap 27, Mohsin Khan 61, Shen Patel 3/77, Jay Malusare 5/53) & 208/5 in 68 overs (Macneil Hadley Noronha 25, Aneeshwar Gautam 64 n.o., Dheeraj J. Gowda 63, Yashovardhan Parantap 32 n.o.).

Mithila scalps four

Mithila Vinod scalped four wickets (4/25) as Karnataka defeated Gujarat by 21 runs in the BCCI under-23 women's one-day Trophy in Kolkata.
The scores: Karnataka 76 in 23.4 overs (Tanya Patel 3/27, Zeel N. Mithaiwala 4/3) bt Gujarat 55 in 29.4 overs (Mithila Vinod 4/25).

Dooravani (2) rides on Subhas Angadi's unbeaten ton

Subhas Angadi top-scored with an unbeaten 115 as Dooravani Cricketers (2) beat Bowlers CC by 40 runs in the KSCA (Group I) fifth division tournament.
In another match, Akhilesh S. Shetty's all-round effort (51 & 3/39) helped Star Cricketers XI overcome Modern Cricketers by 35 runs.
The scores: Dooravani Cricketers (2) 278/6 in 50 overs (Subhas Angadi 115 n.o., S. Anil Kumar 56, Veeraj Haveri 28) bt Bowlers 238/9 in 50 overs (Sumukh S. Bharadwaj 72, Navneet Marathe 25, D.V. Raghavendra 48).
Star Cricketers XI 252 in 49.5 overs (Akhilesh S. Shetty 55, Binesh Nair 51, Rahul Bagewadi 31, Ganesh Vinod Naik 30 n.o., H.N. Gowri Shankar 3/50, Marshal Ronaldo 3/49) bt St Joseph's College 139/7 in 29.5 overs (Suhas G. Nair 32 n.o.).
Youth 213 in 50 overs (M. Tanshh Krishna 68, G.N. Srihari 36, H.N. Karthik 30, H. Madhusudhan 3/38) lost to Young Cricketers (1) 217/6 in 28.5 overs (Harish Raju 32, A. Ranjith Kumar 54, M. Rohith 41 n.o., V. Rohit 27).
Canara Union 268/8 in 50 overs (M. Likith Gowda 110, K. Rajesh 44) lost to Ranji 269/5 in 47.2 overs (R. Anand Kumar 97, S. Srikanth 39, A.V. Nithin 38, V.S. Surya 51, C.M. Srinivas 3/49).
Sri Jayachamarajendra 124 in 30.2 overs (N. Nanda Kumar 5/37) lost to Johnson 128/2 in 17.3 overs (P. Shashank 25, Nikhil Gowda 43, M. Manjesh 29 n.o.).
Diamond 71 in 19.1 overs (Arjun N. Gowda 3/31, Chetan Kumar 4/29, D. Raghavendra 3/1) lost to Citizen Cultural CA 73/2 in 13.3 overs (Arjun N. Gowda 27 n.o., A.V. Manoj 31 n.o.).
YMCA (3) 69 in 18.4 overs (Arjun Aravind Potti 34, B.N. Shishir 4/26, K. Syed Shahul Ayaan 5/37) lost to Garfield Cricketers 70/5 in 14.1 overs (Karthik Govind Rathod 3/12).
Caravan Cricketers 232 in 47.3 overs (K.S. Bharath 50, Nikhil Aithal 38, H.S. Girish 3/35, P. Kiran Kumar 3/60) bt National Cricketers 109 in 38.1 overs (Bhima Shankar 31, H.S. Girish 34, Nikhil Aithal 5/13, Nitesh 3/16, S. Manjunatha 3/4).
Blaze, Hoskote 246 in 48.4 overs (R. Arvind 45, L. Rakesh 32, L. Kaushik 29, Shashank Ramdas 50 n.o.) bt Government RC College 120 in 31.5 overs (S.A. Sudarshan 44, R. Dhanush Dimpu 27, Honne Mulkatte Narayana Gowda 3/16, Abhimanyu Arjun Devaiah 3/9).
National Cricketers 197 in 44.1 overs (G.R. Mrunal 37, Bhima Shankar 57, S. Jaganath 28, R. Shareef 4/48) lost to Hoskote CC 200/9 in 42.5 overs (N. Manu 82, K. Kiran 58 n.o., Arif Baig 4/26).
Canarese 292 in 46 overs (Karthik 42, Abhinav Jha 28, G. Ravi 65, Bushan Rao 36, D. Nishanth 31 n.o., K.V. Varun 4/60) bt Crescent (2) 108 in 25.1 overs (V. Pavan 48, D. Nishanth 3/24).
Government Science College 107 in 32 overs (Sunil 42, Suhas Ramachandra 5/28) lost to Dolphin Cricketers 109/2 in 12.5 overs (Sudeep Sateri 36 n.o.).
Star Cricketers XI 213 in 43.2 overs (Akhilesh S. Shetty 51, Rahul Bagewadi 29, Binesh Nair 25, Anil K. Vishwanath 45, B.P. Sai Vijay 3/34, H.S. Pramoda 3/44) bt Modern Cricketers 178 in 41.2 overs (Mahendra Yelahanka Krishnappa 32, V. Divyesh 48, H.S. Pramoda 34, Ganesh Vinod Naik 3/16, Akhilesh S. Shetty 3/39).
Zodiac 211 in 49.1 overs (Karan 48, Shoheb Pasha 76, P. Shashank 3/30, P. Akshay 3/38) bt Southern Cricketers 119 in 22.2 overs (P. Akshay 36, K.S. Chethan 3/27, Prem Kumar 3/27).
Chamarajpet 305/7 in 50 overs (Manjunatha 25, C.H. Kashish 39, D. Shiva Kumar 88, Sowjan Shetty 46 n.o., H.A. Punith 26) bt Central College 135 in 38.5 overs (S.R. Manthesh 99 n.o., R. Pranesh 3/18).
Unique CC 269 in 47 overs (Srujan Rajesh 27, R. Veeramuthu Darshan 42, M.S. Chetan 99 n.o.) bt Prathibhe Talented Trust 147 in 33.3 overs (Aravind Kurtakoti 47, D.G. Vasanth Kumar 45, S. Ayyappa Ashray 4/13, H.R. Jayanth 3/20).
UVCE College 122 in 27.2 overs (Madhan 53, C. Tarun 4/34, Nagarjun Sharma 3/19) lost to MES College 123/2 in 11.2 overs (R. Suhas 70 n.o.).

Jawahar Union hammers Blitz

Jawahar Union FC blanked Blitz FC 4-0 in the BDFA A-division league here on Wednesday.
The scores: Jawhar Union FC 4 (Melwyn Emmanuel 23, Alan Sanjay Xavier 35, K. Karthick 43, Reuel Melvin Fernandes 60) bt Blitz FC 0; Parikrma FC 3 (Ashwin Chakravarthy 56, Thangjalen Haokip 63, Syed Ahamed 79) bt Income Tax FC 1 (Yensembam Umakant Singh 74).

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027

TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited Project

SL. NO.	NAME OF PROJECT	E-TENDER ID	PAC AMOUNT (EXCLUSIVE OF GST)	Bid Submission Last Date
1.	Selection of Contractor for Integrated Social Housing Complex for Slum Household Project at Rajaji Nagar Thiruvananthapuram First Phase	2024_SCTLT_655865_1	Rs.18,02,66,134/-	16-Feb-2024 04:00 PM

Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by e-mail. All the RFP documents and details are available on the e-Procurement Website. Bids are only accepted online on the Website **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in**

(SD/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LTD.

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned government of Karnataka undertaking)
CIN Number: U04010KA2002SGC030436

No. GESCOM/SEE (Proc)/EE/AEE/2023-24/54429-33
Date:06.02.2024

Tender Notification Cancellation (KPPP Portal mode only- Short term)

This office Tender notification letter No. GESCOM/SE(Porc.)/EEE/AEEE/2023-24/52468-72 Dated. 25.01.2024 The Tenders Notified in newspaper The Hindu (English),Vijay Karnataka (Kannada page-4) and UdayKala (Kannada) Dated 27.01.2024 for Manufacture and supply of the following materials as per GESCOM specifications vide this office enquiry No:**PC-1331, PC-1332 and PC-1333** are cancelled.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Procurement), GESCOM, Corporate Office, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/788/KSMC&A/2023-24

Government of Karnataka
Department of School Education
(PRE-UNIVERSITY)
18th Cross, Malleswaram, Benglauru-560 012

No: DPUE-ACA0OTH/ 35/38/2024 Date: 07.02.2024

SHORT -TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPP Portal Only)

As Announced in the state budget of 2023-24, 60 colleges in aspirational talukas have been chosen as Aadarsha PU colleges to improve science education. The following 2 tenders have been called in KPP portal to implement the scheme.

Sl. No	Explanation	Tender Number	Amount Rs. in Lakhs
01	All in One Computers Desktop	PUED/2023-24/ SE0005	867
02	Interactive Display Boards	PUED/2023-24/ SE0007	180

The tender details are available in the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in the date for the commencement of e-tender Date: **08.02.2024** and Last Date is **23.02.2024 at 5:30 P.M.** For more Details contact E-procurement portal.

Sd/- Director,
Department of School Education (PU)

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bids vide the below mentioned Bid Enquiry Nos.

No. SEE/T (W&M)/EEE(O)/AEE-1/MYS/23-24/5358-61 Date: 06.02.2024

1) Bid Enq. No. KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AEE-1/T(W&M)/MYS/2023-24/REPL/01.Replacement of 1x12.5MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer by 1x20MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer at 66/11KV K.M Doddi Sub-Station in Maddur Taluk & Mandya District on PTK Basis.

2) Bid Enq. No. KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AEE-1/T(W&M)/MYS/2023-24/REPL/02. Replacement of 1x 8 MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer by 1x12.5 MVA, 66/11KV Power Tr. at 66/11KV Besagaraahally Sub-station in Madduru Taluk and Mandya District on PTK Basis.

3) Bid Enq. No. KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AEE-1/T(W&M)/MYS/2023-24/REPL/03. Replacement of 1x6.3 MVA by 1X12.5 MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformers at existing Tubinakere 220/66/11KV Sub-station in Mandya Taluk, Mandya District on PTK Basis **(Reserved for ST Category).**

4) Bid Enq. No. KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AEE-1/T(W&M)/MYS/2023-24/REPL/04. Replacement of 1st 1 x 12.5MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer by 1x20MVA, 66/11 KV Power Transformer at 66/11KV Koppa Sub-Station in Maddur Taluk & Mandya District on PTK Basis.

5) Bid Enq. No. KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AEE-1/T(W&M)/MYS/2023-24/REPL/05. Replacement of 1x 6.3MVA and 1x8MVA 66/11KV Power Transformer by 2 x12.5 MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer at 66/11KV Halaguru Sub-Station in Malavalli Taluk, Mandya District on PTK Basis.

6) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AEE-1/T(W&M)/MYS/2023-24/REPL/06. Replacement of 1x12.5 MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer by 1x20MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer at 66/11KV KR Pete Sub-Station in KR Pete Taluk & Mandya District on PTK Basis.

7) Bid Enq. No. KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AE-3/T(W&M)/MYS/2023-24/REPL/07. Replacement of 2x8 MVA 66/11KV Power Transformer by 2x12.5 MVA 66/11KV Power Transformer at 66/11KV Ramapura Sub-Station in Hanur Taluk Chamaraja nagar District on PTK Basis.

8) Bid Enq. No. KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AE-3/T(W&M)/MYS/2023-24/ REPL/08. Replacement of 1x8 MVA 66/11KV Power Transformer by 1x12.5MVA 66/11KV Power Transformer at 66/11KV Madikeri Sub-Station in Madakeri Taluk Kodagu District on PTK Basis. **(Reserved for SC Category)**.

9) Bid Enq. No. KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AE-3/T(W&M)/MYS/2023-24/ REPL/09 Replacement of 1x8 MVA 66/11KV Power Transformer by 1x12.5 MVA 66/11KV Power Transformer at 66/11KV Attigulipura Sub-Station in Chamarajanagar Taluk Chamarajanagar District on PTK Basis.

10) Bid Enq. No. KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AE-3/T(W&M)/MYS/2023-24/REPL/10. Replacement of 1x12.5 MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer by 1x20 MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer at 66/11KV Bilikere Sub-Station in Hunsur Taluk & Mysuru District on PTK Basis. **(Reserved for SC Category)**.

No. SEE/T(W&M)/MYS/EEE(O)/AE-1/23-24/5377-79 Date: 06.02.2024

11) Bid Enq. No. KPTCL/SEE/TWM/MYS/GCB/632 Date: 05.02.2024 Augmentation of Existing Capacitor bank from 2.9MVAR to 5.8MVAR connected to 20MVA Power transformers at 66/11kV sub-stations Bannur, H.D Kote & T.N.Pura on TTK basis.

12) Bid Enq. No. KPTCL/SEE/TWM/MYS/GCB/609/CALL-2 Date: 05.02.2024 Replacement and dismantling of Obsolete 2 Nos of 66kV class AREVA Make breakers of Transformer 1 & 2 at 66/11kV Madikeri S/s, TL & SS Division, Hootagally, Mysore on TTK basis. **(Reserved for ST Category)**.

The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **08.02.2024** (For Sl. No. 1 to 10) and **9.02.2024** (For Sl. No. 11 & 12) Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- **Superintending Engineer, (El.), Trans (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, I Floor, 'PrasaranaBhavana', N.R.Mohalla, Mysore-570 007. Ph: 0821-2455018.**

ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION RAICHUR

No:ACF/SFDR/KPPP.Proc.Tender/CR- /2023-24/317 Date:06-02-2024

e-Tender Notification B

This is to inform the public that, for the Financial Year 2024-25. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division, Raichur has invited Tender for Forest Works through e-Procurement (Website Link http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) two cover system in Different Schemes. Registered Forest Contractors under of Territorial Forest Division Raichur (Registered in the Year 2023-24) are eligible for Tender Works. Tender From 06-02-2024 to 16-02-2024 4.00 Pm.

Technical Bids open on 17-02-2024 and Financial Bid opening on 19-02-2024 at 4.00 Pm.

More Details available on the notice board. Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division, Raichur.

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division, Raichur.

DIP/RCR/466/KSMC&A/Job No.463/2023-24

Government of Karnataka
PUBLIC WORKS, PORTS & INLAND WATER TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajanagara Division, Chamarajanagara
Phone / Fax : 08226-222027 Email : eecnr@kpwd.gov.in / pwdeechngr@gmail.com

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement portal only)
(**Two Cover System** : Section-1-Technical Bid and Section-2- Financial Bid)
Tender Notification No. 15/2023-24 Dated : 01-02-2024

Item rate tenders are invited through e-procurement portal only on behalf of Governor of Karnataka from Eligible registered civil Contractor in KPWD in Standard Bid document **KW-3 & KW-4,** form Total no of works is 7**, H/A :- 5054-04-337-0-01-154-ORF Works** minimum estimate cost Rs. 58.00 lakhs & maximum estimated cost is Rs. 390.00 lakhs, Further Changes in this Notification will be Published in E-Procurement Only. **Date of events as follows:**

1	Date and Time for downloading the tender document from the e-procurement portal	From 01-02-2024 to 12-02-2024 upto 16.00 Hrs
2	Pre-Bid Meeting Date	08-02-2024 in Division Office Meeting Hall at 11.00 AM
3	Date & Time for opening of Technical bid	14-02-2024 after 16.00 Hrs.
4	Date & Time for opening of Financial bid	16-02-2024 after 16.00 Hrs.

More Information can be had from the Web site : **https://www.Kppp.karnataka.gov.in** & Any other details required can be obtained from office of the under signed during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Chamarajanagar

DIPR : CHANAGAR:376:2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME
STATION HQ ECHS CELL, JALAHALLI
Phone:080-23451032 / Email:stnhqjalahalli410@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

1. ECHS invites applications to engage following Medical , Para Medical & Non Medical Staff on contractual basis in ECHS Polyclinic Tumkur & Extension Counter Jalahalli for a period of one year **renewable for additional period of one year/ till attaining the maximum age subject to performance of candidates/ other conditions** according to the criteria as mentioned against each post :-

Appointment	Minimum Qualification	No of Vacancy	Fixed Remuneration
OIC Polyclinic	Graduate, Minimum 5 years work experience in Health care institutions or Managerial Positions	01	Rs.75,000/-
Medical Officer	MBBS, Minimum 05 years after internship Preferable addl Qualification in medicine/surgery	03	Rs.75,000/-
Dental Officer	BDS, Minimum 05 years work experience	01	Rs.75,000/-
Lab Technician	B.Sc. (MLT) or 12th in Science with DMLT, Minimum 03 years work experience as Lab Asst in Med Lab.	01	Rs.28,100/-
Lab Assistant	DMLT/Class-I Laboratory Tech Course (Armed Force). Minimum 05 years work experience in Laboratory.	01	Rs.28,100/-
Pharmacist	B.Pharma or 12th in Science (PCB) with D.Pharma and registed as Pharmicist under the Pharmacy Act 1948. Minimum 03 years work experience.	01	Rs.28,100/-
Nursing Assistant	B.Sc. Nursing/ G N M Diploma/ Class I Nursing Assistants Course (Armed Forces). Minimum 5 years experience.	01	Rs.28,100/-
Dental Hyg/Asst/Tech	Diploma Holder in Dental Hyg/ Class-1 DH/DORA Course (Armed Forces). Minimum 5 years experience in Dental Laboratory.	01	Rs.28,100/-
Driver	Education –8 Class I MT driver (Armed Forces) Posses a civil driving license (Heavy vehicle driving license). Minimum 5 years experience as Driver.	01	Rs.19,700/-
Female Attendant	Literate, Minimum 05 years experience in Civil/ Army Health institutes.	01	Rs.16,800/-
Safaiwala	Literate, Minimum 05 years work experience.	01	Rs.16,800/-
Chowkidar	Class 8th or GD trade for Armed Forces personnel.	01	Rs.16,800/-

2. For term & condition, Application Form & Remuneration: Kindly see our website www.echs.gov.in . for additional details, please contact Station HQ (ECHS Cell) Jalahalli at telephone No. 080-23451032 and email ID stnhqjalahalli410@gmail.com. Also approach concerned ECHS Polyclinic for details. Preference will be given to Ex-servicemen.

3. Last date for receipt of application as per format given at our website. Application as per requisite format along with self attested photo copies of testimonials in support of educational qualifications and work experience will be submitted to OIC Station HQ ECHS Cell, C/o Air Force Station Jalahalli, Bangalore (KA) – 560013 by 29/02/2024 in duplicate. Any applications received after last date will not be accepted.

4. Interview Date, Timing & Venue. Candidate must reach Station HQ ECHS Cell, Jalahalli (East) at 0730 hrs on 5th, 6th March 2024 for the interview to be held between 0900 hrs to 1430 hrs. Candidate must bring all original documents certificates/Marks Sheet /Degree of 10th/Matric, 12th & Graduation /Post Graduation /Diploma/Course, work experience and discharge book, PPO, service records and two Passport size colour photographs at the time of interview. No TA/DA is admissible. Only candidates meeting the Qualitative Requirement may apply.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER AND LAND ACQUISITION OFFICER,
(NATIONAL HIGHWAY ZONE KALABURAGI), KALABURAGI SUB-DIVISION, KALABURAGI
Telephone No.08472-278656 e-mail:ackalaburagi@gmail.com

No.REV/LAQ/01/2022-23 Dated : 31-01-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

Under section 3G and subsection (3) and (4) of the NH act 1956

In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3D of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956), the Ministry Of Road Transport And Highways, Central Government vide India Gazette Notification No. SO. 5446 (E) on dated: 22.12.2023, declared the acquisition of land indicated the schedule here under for building (widening /two lane with paved shoulder/ four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH-150E, in the stretch of land from Km 35.935 to Km 72.920 (Kalaburagi-Chowdapura-Afzalpur-Maharashtra border section) in the district of Kalaburgi(Gulbarga) in the State of KARNATAKA.

Under the provision of section 3G (1), (2), (3) and (4) of the NH act 1956 (48 of 1956), it is here by informed to the land owners and any interested persons whose lands will be acquired for building of NH-150E, in the stretch of land from Km 35.935 to Km 72.920 (Kalaburagi-Chowdapura-Afzalpur-Maharashtra border section) in the district of Kalaburgi (Gulbarga) to appear in person or by an agent of by a legal practioner and submit their claims for determining/awarding compensation, along with copies of the following relevant documents to the following office and to state the nature of their respective intrest in such lands within 07 days from the Date of publication of this public notice.

1) Present year RTC, 2) 14 years EC, 3) Mutation copy, 4) Sale/partition/other deeds of title, 5) Tax paid receipts copy, 6) Family Tree, 7) Land Converssion order certified copy, 8) Panchayath Khatha copy and other relevant documents etc.,

If the Land owners of land indicated in the schedule here under fails to submit the aforesaid documents within the stipulated time, in such case Land compensation will be determined based on the available documents in this office. Further it is informed that not to carry any Crop Growing or any Development activity now onwards in the respect of lands specified in the Schedule as per the said 3(D) notification vested in the Central Government, also if Crops any Grown or carried any Development activity will not be considered for Compensation.

Sl. No.	Name of the Taluk	Name of the Village	Date & Time	Place of receiving Application and Documents
1	Afzalpur	Afzalpur	15.02.2024 from 11:00AM to 01:00PM	Office of the Assistant Commissioner and Land Acquisition Officer, (National Highway Zone Kalaburagi), Kalaburgi Sub-division, Kalaburgi
2		Ballurgi		
3		Chowdapura		

Sd/- (Rupinder Kaur, IAS)
Assistant Commissioner and Land Acquisition Officer,
(National Highway Zone Kalaburagi),
Kalaburgi Sub-division, Kalaburgi

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 22nd December, 2023

S.O. 5446(E).– Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, S.O.3877 (E) dated 01.09.2023, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening /two lane with paved shoulder/ four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH-150E, in the stretch of land from Km 35.935 to Km 72.920 (Kalaburagi-Chowdapura-Afzalpur-Maharashtra border section) in the district of Kalaburgi(Gulbarga) in the State of KARNATAKA..

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "Samyuktha Karnataka" and "Deccan Herald" both dated 09.09.2023; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas no objection has been received from any person by the competent authority;

And whereas objections have been received and the same have been considered and disallowed by the competent authority;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling within the stretch of land from Km. 35.935 to Km. 72.920 (Kalaburagi-Chowdapura-Afzalpur-Maharashtra border section) of NH-150E in the state of Karnataka.

State: Karnataka **District: Kalaburagi**

Sl. No.	Survey/ Plot number	Type of Land	Nature Of land	Area (in Hectares)	Name of the land owner/ Interested persons
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Taluka: Afzalpur				
	Village: Chowdapura				
1	19	Private	Dry/Wet	0.0791	Ramadas S/o Suresh Pawar Mahadev S/o Bhimu Pawar Chanamma W/o Mahantappa Kumbar Sharadabai W/o Manu Mahadevi W/o Shivsharanappa Kumbar Shri Shri Shri Murugendra Guru Shri Shri Shri Shadakshari Siddaram
2	20	Private	Dry	0.0808	Premkumar S/o Pandu Subhash S/o Bhagawanth Pritam S/o Tippanna Rathod Apaka D/o Deepa W/o Tippanna Rathod Teju S/o Gangaram Rathod Shankar S/o Gopu Rathod Gemusing S/o Pandu powar 20/1, 20/2
3	25	Private	Dry	0.1063	Ashok S/o Husanayya Guttedar Rekha Malikayya Guttedar Madhavi W/o Mallikarjun Guttedar Nagamma W/o Rukmayya Guttedar Shivayya S/o Khatalayya Nagayya S/0 Shivayya 25/8, 25/9, 25/10, 25/3, 25/7, 25/2
	Village: Afzalpur				
4	257	Private	Dry/Wet	0.4638	Parvati W/o Ambaraya Nimbal Sandeep S/o Shivasharana Kadlewada Santosh s/o Panchappa Devani Devika W/o Sharanappa shetty Gangadhar S/o Malkappa Shreegiri Mahadevi W/o Basavaraj Biradar Ashok S/o Hanamant Shivanand S/o Hanamant Gurubai W/o Gurudatta 257/1, 257/2, 257/3, 257/4, 257/5, 257/6, 257/8, 257/12
5	291	Private	Wet	0.0303	Bhaganna S/o Dhareppa Bangaravva W/o Dhareppa Chandram S/o Dhareppa Shrishail S/o Shankar Dudagi 291/1,7,8
6	380	Private	Wet	0.0257	Amit S/o Anjaneya Kulkarni Sandeep S/o Balachandrarao Kulkarni Sushant S/o Balachandrarao Kulkarni Balachandra S/o Bhagawanrao Kulakarni 380/3, 380/4, 380/5, 380/6
7	382	Private	Dry/Wet	0.1474	Sarubai W/o Channaveerappa Sarasamba Mantesh s/o channaveerappa Sarasamba Bheema Eta Niravari Yojane Kalaburgi. 382/4, 382/5, 382/7
	Village: Ballurgi				
8	135	Private	Dry	0.1309	Chandamma D/o Venkayya Guttedar Dattu S/o Shrimanth Talawar Yallaling S/o Shrimanth Talawar Basamma W/o Ramnarayan Mahadevi W/o Shrimanth Talawar Subhadra Bai W/o Jettappa Talawar Sharanappa S/o Jettappa Talawar Ambanna S/o Jettappa Talawar Hanamanth S/o Kasheppa Talawar Veeresh S/o Hanamant Talawar Basavaraj S/o Hanamant Talawar Akash S/o Hanamant Talawar Guru S/o Hanamanth Talawar Mahantesh S/o Hanamanth Talawar Bhagavva W/o Laxman Talawar Shrikanth S/o Ramachandra Talawar Shivanand S/o Ramchandra Talawar 135/1, 135/2
9	346	Private	Dry	0.0238	Jayashree W/o Shivayya Guttedar Muktabai W/o Saibanna Maindargi Kareppa S/o Dundappa Poojari 346/1, 346/2
10	9	Private	Dry	0.2427	Rajshekhar Mahadevappa Tolanoor Shobha W/o Khemchand Kasar Mallinath S/o Rudrappa Tolanoor Rudrappa S/o Basavanappa Tolanoor Sangamnath S/o Basavanappa Tolanoor Sidramappa S/o Rudrappa Tolanoor
			Total	**1.3308**	

[F.No.RW/NH-12014/12/2022/KNT/ Zone-1/3D]
Sd/-
ABHAY JAIN, Dy.Secy.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/778/KSMC&A/2023-24

2024 *Sportstar* Aces Awards to be presented today

There are 24 categories, among them five Popular Choice and 16 Jury Awards; there were more than two lakh votes for the Popular Choice Awards this year, breaking all previous records

Tales of wit: Bindra, right, and the other jury members Somaya, Gavaskar and Aparna share a light moment at an Aces Awards meeting. FILE PHOTO: NAGARA GOPAL

Sports Bureau
MUMBAI

The 2024 *Sportstar* Aces Awards will be held from 6 p.m. here on Thursday.

This year, there are 24 categories of awards, among them five Popular Choice and 16 Jury Awards. The five Popular Choice Awards are Sportsman of the Year, Sportswoman of the Year, National Team of the Year, Club Team of the Year, and Sporting Moment of the Year.

There were more than two lakh votes for the Popular Choice Awards, breaking all previous records.

The Jury Awards are Sportsman of the Year (Individual Sports, Track and Field, Team Sports, Parasports), Sportswoman of the Year (Individual Sports, Track and Field, Team Sports, Parasports), Coach of the Year, Best State for Promotion of Sports, Best Corporate for Promotion of Sports, Best PSU for Promotion of Sports, Best College/University for Promotion of Sports, Lifetime Achievement Award, Young Achiever of the Year (Boy), and Young Achiever of the Year (Girl).

There will be a Chairperson's Award for Sports for Social Good, honouring those who have used sports to make the world a better place. Besides this, there will be two special awards as well: International Icon and Ace of Aces.

The *Sportstar* Aces Awards is presented by Amul, powered by IDFC First Bank in association with Indian Oil.

The associate partners are LIC India, State Bank of India, Greyon Cosmetic, India Cements, United India Insurance, NTPC, Ramaiah University. The reality partner is Casagrand, with online grocery partner Big Basket, colour partner Nippon Paint and education partner Christ University. The co-sponsors are Pratiyogita Darpan, SSVM and PSG. Additionally, Signpost is the Digital OOH Partner, NDTV is the Broadcast Partner, Dailyhunt is the Online Streaming Partner and Wordswork is the PR Partner.

Sportstar Aces Awards a fossil record of Indian sports: Anand

Sports Bureau

From being the man who put India on the global chess map to now seeing players slowly overtake his milestones and cement India's reputation as a chess superpower, Viswanathan Anand is a content man. The chess Grandmaster, also a member of the jury for the *Sportstar* Aces Awards, is elated by the kind of year 2023 turned out to be for the sport in the country.

"From the point of view of our chess players rising to the top, we have five people qualifying for the Candidates [April 3-22, 2024]. The FIDE World Cup and FIDE Grand Swiss were some of the most followed events in India because of the possibility of our players qualifying. On top of that, we had multiple good results as well. So, a big year for the sport in general," Anand said.

This abundance of talent poses a "problem" to the Aces jury, too, while deciding winners for *Sportstar's* annual sports honours.

"The 'problem' is a very pleasant one to have. In every category, we have to wade through names and make some really hard choices. And this is getting harder and harder. We're not just doing well in sports we've traditionally done well in, but we're also surprising in new sports. The slate is getting bigger and bigger. It's a sportsperson's dream to be sitting with others from different areas of sports and discussing it all. But there are times when we wish more than one player could be honoured," Anand explained.

Viswanathan Anand.

"The *Sportstar* Aces Awards becomes a fossil record, almost, to look back and see how far we've come. I enjoy these jury meetings a lot because you get a quick snapshot of everything that is happening in the ecosystem," he said.

From Beed to Benoni — the incredible journey of Sachin Dhas

Sachin during the U-19 World Cup. GETTY IMAGES

U-19 WORLD CUP

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

His police officer mother didn't want cricket to be Sachin Dhas' focus in life but the father knew that he was destined to make it big on the 22-yard strip despite spending a better part of his life training on 11-yard grass tracks that pass for infrastructure in his hometown Beed.

On Tuesday, his 96-run knock, along with skipper Uday Saharan's 81, was a key factor in ensuring that India sneaked into the age-group show-piece's final for a fifth consecutive time.

"You only have half pitches over here (in Beed). Sachin came here with his father when he was four and a half years old and even before going to South Africa, he trained on half turfs," said an ecstatic Sheikh Azhar, the area's most famous coach who shaped Dhas' early years.

Named after the iconic Mumbaikar, who is synonymous with Indian cricket, Sachin is a fan of Virat Kohli, the modern great he has perhaps seen more closely although he wears the number 10 jersey which was owned by Tendulkar in every sense of the word.

"I named him after Sachin Tendulkar when he was born in 2005 because I was a huge fan but he also likes Virat Kohli a lot," declared his father Sanjay.

Asked about his practice hours, Dhas senior revealed, "Four hours in the morning and three and half hours in the evening, including gym work. It's seven and half hours per day. I must give credit to Azhar, his coach. Without him, we wouldn't have seen this day."

"The training part in Beed was certainly tough but not the selection part in age group state teams. Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) has been fair to my son.

"He performed at every level and he was always picked on merit."

Sachin's journey won't stop at the U-19 level and a tough initiation to senior cricket is waiting for him.

IN A WORLD OF LIMITS, TONIGHT IS ABOUT THOSE WHO DEFY THEM.

The Sportstar ACES Awards celebrate India's biggest sporting champions every year. The ones that go above and beyond, hoist our flag the highest and create new milestones. Join us to cheer for the legends. Watch and applaud them as they receive the accolades they truly deserve.

Date: February 8, 2024
Time: 6 PM onwards

Visit the link: sstar.news/AcesLive to watch the event live on the day.

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